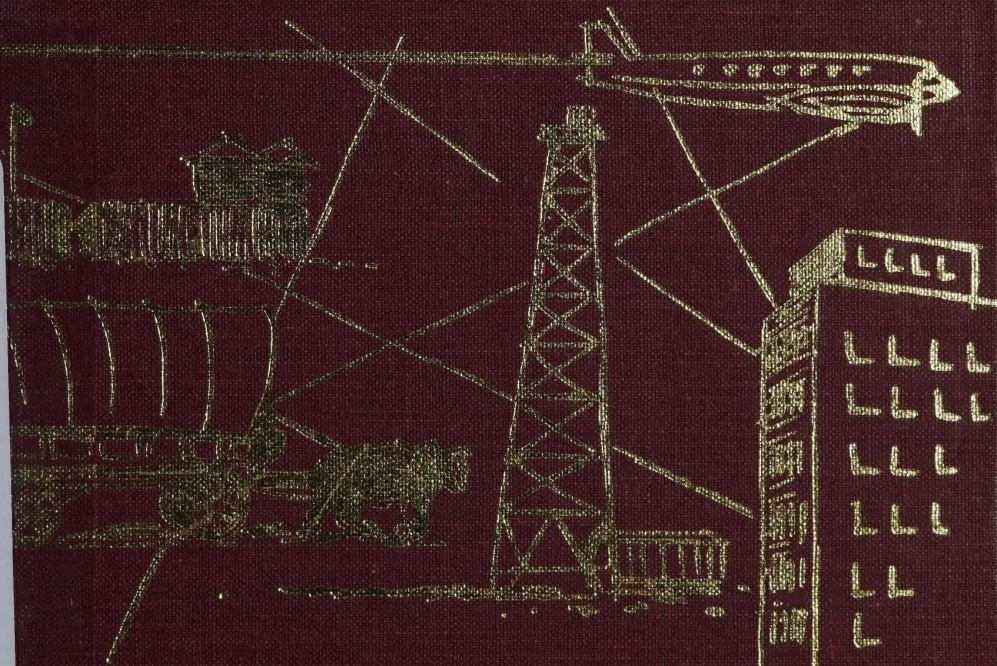


Across the Years in Findlay and Hancock County

By R. L. Heminger



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in
Findlay
and
Hancock County

By

R. L. Heminger

Editor and Publisher

THE REPUBLICAN-COURIER

FINDLAY, OHIO

1965

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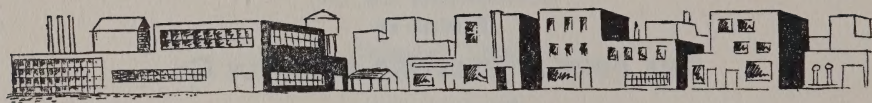
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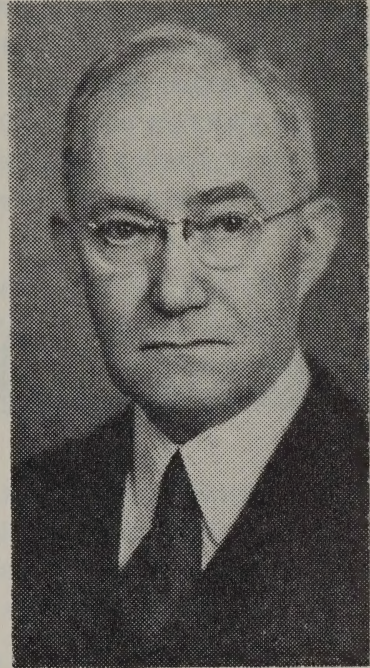


Dedication

THIS VOLUME is dedicated to the memory of the late I. N. Heminger, the author's father and Findlay newspaper publisher for many years. At the time of his death in 1941, he had been engaged in the newspaper business longer than any other Findlay individual in the community's history.

Mr. Heminger was a native of Allen township, Hancock county, where he was born in 1868. He attended school in Van Buren and became a student at Findlay College on the first day the institution opened its doors in 1886. He was the first four-year graduate of the college where the foyer of the Myers residence hall for men is dedicated to his memory.

He joined the news staff of the former Morning Republican upon completing his college work in 1890 becoming a stockholder, also. Two years later, he bought the Bluffton, O., News, remaining there for eight years while continuing his stockholder connection with the Findlay newspaper. He moved back to Findlay in 1900 and became business manager and publisher of the Republican, a post he continued to hold until his death.



I. N. HEMINGER

Mr. Heminger was an active leader in civic affairs and his contribution to the advancement of community progress was a valuable one. He was deeply interested in all those vital matters that combine to produce constructive citizenship. His broad outlook, his sympathetic understanding and his high ideals, as well as his integrity and his sincere devotion to those causes that enhance life constitute a heritage that is richly prized.



Foreword

This volume is intended to provide an account of some selected phases of the historical record of Findlay and Hancock county, extending back to early days and also reaching into more recent years.

The author, in preparing this book, has had in mind the feeling that it is important to preserve valuable material that is related to the community's growth and development across the years. While some of the matter described herein has necessarily appeared in previous works with respect to city and county history, a great deal of the text of this volume represents areas not heretofore covered. This volume is not intended to constitute a full history of Findlay and Hancock county, but only a review of some of the matters that hold especial interest.

The author published a book in 1961 under the title "Profiles of Community Development and Progress." It was primarily a text book for the schools of Findlay and Hancock county. The books were presented as a gift to the schools by the author and The Findlay Publishing company, at that time.

The current volume, "Across the Years in Findlay and Hancock county," includes all the material in the previous book, with revisions, together with a half dozen more chapters covering additional subjects. An appendix has been added to include a number of matters of special interest.

In preparing this book, the author has proceeded on the theory that a knowledge and appreciation of the background of the community in which one lives combine to produce better and more responsible citizenship. Too often, the priceless heritage which is ours is forgotten. A full realization of its significance and its contribution to our well being today is essential if we are to continue to move forward and progress, constructively.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to all who have so kindly aided him in the preparation of this volume, especially his wife, his two sons, and his associates at the Republican-Courier.

R. L. HEMINGER



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Chapter 1

When The Settlers Arrived

I

NORTHWESTERN OHIO was the last section of the state of Ohio to be settled. There was a reason. It was a swampy area which was difficult to enter. The worst part of the extensive swamp was largely within the territory now known as Hancock, Wood, Putnam and Henry counties. Parts of other counties within the Maumee river valley also were within the area.

The watery region was known as the Black Swamp.

The pioneers who did manage to gain a foothold in the wet territory after General Hull's march through the area in 1812 were a hardy lot. They had to be, because they met difficulties which would have been too hard for the less courageous. So, it goes almost without saying that those now living here as descendents of these early settlers who so successfully braved these difficulties owe a great debt to their ancestors for attempting to open up this last part of the Buckeye state.

Areas in the southeastern part of the state had been entered and settled more than 25 years previously. Other sections of the new state were already well along towards development while the northwestern Ohio area remained a swamp which settlers hesitated to enter.

When General Hull and Colonel Findlay made their historic march through the territory in the war of 1812, en route to Detroit, they ran into great difficulties as they led their troops over the wet ground. When they entered what is now Hancock county some 15 miles below what is now Findlay, they found the going so troublesome that it became necessary to call a halt and establish a temporary camp at a location which they named "Fort Necessity" because of the necessity to halt the march and devise new plans to get through the swamp area safely. A monument marks the site of this camp near Hancock-Hardin boundary line in Madison township in Hancock county.

Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio contain the following anecdote illustrating the difficulties of travel through the region in the early days:

"Among the cultivated industries of the region at one time was the furnishing of relief to travellers, chiefly emigrants, whose teams were found to be incompetent for the condition of the road, the chief difficulty arising in their being stalled in the successive "mud holes". So common had this become that some landlords provided themselves with extra yokes of oxen with which to extend the needed relief. This business came to be so systematized that the rights of the settlers to the "mud holes" nearest them were mutually recognized. It was told that, on a time, a certain tavern-keeper who had long held undisputed possession of a particularly fine "mud hole" which he had cultivated with special care for the profit it brought him, sold his "stand", preparatory to leaving the country. Regarding his interest in the "hole" as a franchise too valuable to be abandoned, he finally sold his "quit claim" thereto to a neighbor for the sum of \$5, being probably the only case on record of the sale of a "mud-hole" for use as such."

One of the early pioneers of Findlay, describing his experience upon arriving in the village in 1831 said:

"When I came here I found a swale at Main Cross street that extended to Chamberlain's Hill without a break, a distance of over a mile. When we landed here, we wanted to get to the house of a friend whom we knew. We could not get along the street, but had to "coon it" on logs across the public square. Old logs were plenty then over all the town plat. I think the water was at least one foot deep at Main Cross street and Crawford street."

R. C. Brown, in his exhaustive history of early Hancock county, says:

"The greater part of Findlay was originally very flat, wet and muddy and the lack of good drainage made it impossible to build cellars or basements within the village. Ponds and mud-holes were numerous; streets and lots had to be filled up and surface drainage could not throw off the surplus water during the wet seasons. The streets were, therefore, in a bad condition."

With such conditions prevailing throughout the area, it was not surprising that much sickness developed among the early settlers. There were many cases of ague, malaria and cholera. Epidemics of such ailments continued for some time and the early doctors in the county had their hands full meeting the situation. There were many deaths from cholera at one time particularly and a number of the victims of this terrible disease are buried in a cemetery in Eagle township which had to be hastily provided.

II

THE REASON for the existence of the black swamp lay largely in the blockage of drainage caused by the ancient beaches of Lake Erie, found in this part of the state, and in particular in the 18 counties constituting the Maumee river valley. The beaches take the form of sand ridges, running along what were the ancient shores of the lake. They run crosswise to the general direction of the most rapid drainage and a consequence was blockage of drainage, causing marshes and swamps to develop. The ridges barred the

passage of water to a lower level beyond. Streams were changed from the direction of the shortest and most rapid drainage.

An example of this is the Blanchard river in Hancock county. The most rapid drainage would have been on north from Findlay through branches of the Portage river, with its waters reaching the lake at Port Clinton. Instead, the river upon reaching the Findlay-Carey road coming from the south, flows nearly parallel to one of those ancient beaches in an almost due west direction, instead of on north. The river continues westward to a point near the eastern boundary of Paulding county, then joins the Auglaize river, which meets the Maumee river at Defiance, having a descent of about 100 feet in 65 miles or about 18 inches per mile. If the river had flowed on north from Findlay, it would have reached the lake in less than 50 miles, with a descent of 200 feet or four feet per mile.

There are several of these ancient beaches or ridges in Hancock county. One follows the Benton ridge road on state highway No. 12 west of Findlay. It also extends eastward, but its evidence is not as noticeable. Two other ridges enter the northeast corner of Hancock county and passing westward unite as a single ridge in section five, Washington township, thence proceeding in a southwesterly direction across Cass, Allen, Portage and Pleasant townships. It is known as Sugar Ridge because of the large number of sugar trees that grew along its path. Fostoria, Van Buren and McComb are located on this ridge. Another ridge enters the northeast corner of Portage township from Wood county and runs southwest, parallel with and about two miles north of Sugar Ridge.

The settlers soon discovered that they faced a vast program of drainage to enable them to live here. Petitions for ditches were filed in the 1850's in the various counties and by the end of the 1860's, in Wood county alone a total of 140 ditches were in process of construction, with a total length of 495 miles. The following years saw these figures greatly increased.

The largest ditch was the Jackson cut-off, a nine-mile improvement which drained some 30,000 acres of land in Wood county.

The Hancock county drainage system is an extensive one, too, and cost vast sums of money for the improvement and development of the area.

The county has a vast drainage system involving more than 1,000 miles of county ditches and tile drains, constructed by the county at a cost of over a million dollars during the years.

Hancock county's farms are tiled extensively. In fact the drain tile found in the farms of the county would reach around the world, if laid end to end, it has been estimated. This amounts to one tenth of the distance to the moon.

Drainage men say that it is necessary to go to Holland to find an area in the world with greater drainage than that found in Hancock county.

The face of the black swamp has undergone a complete transformation since the first settlers courageously penetrated the area over a century ago. Their fortitude and their energy have made the territory one of Ohio's most

fertile agricultural areas now and the story of their conquest of nature is indeed a thrilling one.

III

NORTHWESTERN OHIO, of which Hancock county is a part, is the beginning of the great plain states, extending westward to the mountains.

The land is generally level over the whole Northwestern Ohio area. There are some slightly rolling regions, but they are very few.

Some of the areas of Hancock county hold especial interest for various reasons.

There are glacial markings in Findlay. They were made by the glacier centuries ago. They are found in the bed of Eagle creek where it flows along Brookside Drive between Blanchard avenue and Sixth street.

The markings consisting of very evident scratches in the bed rock forming the bottom of the creek can only be observed when the creek water level is low. They run in the same directions, as is customary in glacial markings.

The deepest glacial markings in this part of the state are found on Kelley's Island in Lake Erie. They are visited by many each summer when navigation is open.

In past years, evidence has been found in parts of Hancock county that mound builders once lived here.

Three mounds have been located in Union township in southwest Hancock county, as well as three in Orange township. In Liberty, Delaware and Allen townships, single mounds also were discovered, while two were found in Blanchard township and one in Pleasant township.

The Orange and Union township mounds were opened by early settlers, who found human remains in each mound, as well as flint arrow heads and other implements of stone.

Areas known as "The Wild Cat Thicket", "The Prairie", "Cranberry Marsh," and "Fallen Timbers" existed in Hancock county in early days.

"The Wild Cat Thicket" which was from one to two miles in width, ran across Portage, Allen, Cass and Washington townships in the northern part of the county. From its appearance, the early settlers concluded that the forest had been blown down years before by a raging storm from the west as the trees were blown toward the east. Overgrown with small timber and forest vegetation, the area formed a dense thicket where wild game found safe retreat. It was supposed that numerous wild cats inhabited the locality in a very early day and from this the place took its name.

In the southwestern part of Union township, and a part of Orange township, a narrow strip of land was once very low and wet. A small portion of this tract was prairie, but the balance was covered with a dense growth of swamp willow which made it almost impossible to enter. The entire tract was known as "Cranberry Marsh."

In Amanda township there was once an area which it was believed had been covered with heavy forest timbers. It is believed that some great fire

once destroyed much of the forest. Many of the trees were found to be down when the early settlers arrive on the scene. This blocked drainage and gave the appearance of a swamp to the area, which came to be known as the "Swamp" and also as "Fallen Timbers."

"The Wildcat Thicket," "Cranberry Marsh" and the "Swamp" and "Fallen Timbers" exist no longer, as a result of the activities of the settlers in transforming the land into areas suitable for habitation.

From the east part of Marion township, a flat marsh extends in a southeasterly direction across Biglick township and into Seneca county. It originally covered some 2,000 acres and from the fact that it bore very little forest it became known as "The Prairie."

The soil is black in portions of the area. This is particularly true a short distance north of Vanlue. Portions of Hardin county west of Kenton have extensive areas of very black soil which is used for the raising of onions.

An area known as "Limestone Ridge" in eastern Hancock county is an elevated belt of sand and clay underlaid with limestone. It is situated about nine miles east of Findlay. It is so named on account of the numerous flakes of limestone found scattered over its surface. An underground stream flows beneath the ridge and some deep water wells have been drilled in the area. There are springs also. The city of Findlay secures a portion of its water supply from the ridge, bringing it to the city through underground transmission lines.

Chapter 2

Hardy Pioneers Laid Foundation For Community's Growth

I

THE HARDY pioneers who became the early leaders in the establishment of the town of Findlay were men of fortitude and courage. Their families, too, braved hardships and difficulties that accompany frontier settlements.

The first settlers who arrived in the 1820's found here only the log fort which Col. James Findlay and his troops had erected in the war of 1812 on the banks of the Blanchard river. They had to clear the land about the fort to provide room for the primitive shelters which they erected.

The origin of Findlay as a community is generally held to have begun with the coming of Wilson Vance in November, 1821, nine years after the fort was constructed, for it was he who set in motion the machinery which led to the establishment of the settlement as a town.

Col. Findlay left a small garrison at his fort when he proceeded on to Detroit. A few whites visited the fort in the next few years, but it was not until 1821 that steps toward an organized town took form.

On July 3, 1821, Joseph Vance, William Neil and Elnathan Cory filed the first land entries in the area. Joseph Vance, a brother of Wilson Vance, lived in Urbana, Ohio, and he later became governor of Ohio. Neil's home was in Columbus and Cory was from New Carlisle. Vance and Cory later bought Neil's interests here, becoming the owners of what was the original plat of the town.

Wilson Vance lived in Findlay 41 years. He died in 1862. He was living with a son in Orange township at the time of his death.

In his four decades here, he accomplished much. He held a number of county offices and was one of the moving spirits in the early development of the community. A number of his descendents live here now.

He came here from Fort Meigs along the Maumee river to look after the large land interests of his brother, Joseph, and to lay out the town.

Historical records say he walked the entire distance from Fort Meigs, his wife riding an Indian pony and carrying their small baby in her arms.

The Wilson Vances occupied a story and a half hewed-log dwelling which had been erected by an earlier white settler, who did not remain long. In the spring of 1822, Mr. Vance opened a small hotel which stood near the present bridge on the east side of Main street. He built a grist and saw mill, along the river and engaged in other business enterprises.

Mr. Vance was Findlay's first Postmaster, receiving his appointment in 1823. At the town's first election he was chosen a Justice of the Peace and later became a Township Trustee. He was a lister of property for tax purposes and made the first such list in the town. His own property consisted of a horse and four cattle.

He served as Hancock county's first Clerk of Courts and also as the county's first Recorder. He later became County Treasurer. Records at the Court House still bear his name in an official capacity.

He and his wife opened their home for the first meetings of the Presbyterian church when it was formed in Findlay.

Mr. Vance was a native of Kentucky, where he was born in 1796. He went to Fort Meigs in 1816 after residing in Urbana previously. Mr. and Mrs. Vance were the parents of eight sons and four daughters, all of whom were born in Findlay, except two.

II

SQUIRE AND PARLEE CARLIN, brothers, were two of the earliest settlers in the new town of Findlay and played major roles in the settlement's development. Squire Carlin opened Findlay's first store.

Both lived to see the town grow and expand through many years. Squire Carlin died at 91 in 1892 and his brother passed away in 1883, at the age of 76.

Squire Carlin's store carried on a substantial trade with the Indians. He handled many articles which appealed to their interests as well as supplying the few whites with their primitive needs. His place of business was located at the southwest corner of South Main street and West Front street.

A native of New York state, Squire Carlin and his brother Parlee came to Ohio and became settlers in Findlay in 1826. They spent much time travelling through the forests buying furs from the Indians, white hunters and small traders. They would be taken to Detroit and shipped to Europe. One winter the Carlins purchased 4,600 deer skins and 7,000 coon skins.

Much of the merchandise which they sold in their store came into Findlay by boat, travelling down the Maumee river to the Auglaize river at Defiance and then to Findlay via the Blanchard river.

They also operated grist and saw mills and engaged in the real estate and banking business for some years.

Squire Carlin was Findlay's third Postmaster and served four terms as

Hancock county Treasurer. Parlee Carlin also served as County Recorder and also was in the State Legislature.

III

FINDLAY'S FIRST PHYSICIAN was Dr. Bass Rawson, who arrived here in 1829, when the new town was in its infancy. He was a native of New England.

Dr. Rawson was one of five brothers who decided to make their homes in the new state of Ohio. Four became physicians. Only a dozen or so white families were here when he arrived. He travelled over a wide area to look after the sick. He lived to the advanced age of 92, passing away in 1891.

Two of Findlay's earliest families were united when a daughter of Dr. Rawson, Miss Harriett Rawson, married Dr. William D. Carlin, a son of Squire Carlin.

Dr. Rawson's name is permanently preserved in Findlay. Rawson park is named in his honor. His name is chiseled in stone atop the Rawson building in the 300 block of South Main street.

A brother, Dr. LaQuineo Rawson, was here a short time and then moved to Fremont. He was a prime mover in the building of the present Nickel Plate railroad through Findlay.

IV

EDSON GOIT was the first resident lawyer in Findlay. His name is still preserved in the official records of the county, since two additions in the community bear his name.

He was a native of New York state and after residing in Fremont and Tiffin, he came to Findlay in 1832. He travelled on foot from Tiffin to Findlay through the wilderness or along Indian trails.

He was named Prosecuting Attorney soon after his arrival and later became County Treasurer. In 1867 he moved to Bowling Green where he died in 1880.

Some of the original law books of Mr. Goit are preserved in the Hancock county Law Library.

While a resident here, he built what was at the time Findlay's largest commercial structure located on the east side of South Main street between Front and Main Cross streets. A portion of the building still stands.

V

ONE OF FINDLAY'S EARLIEST BUSINESS MEN was William Taylor, who came here in 1828 from Richland county.

He bought a stock of merchandise and opened the community's second store on the west side of South Main street, south of the river. He also went into the hotel business.

Mr. Taylor was the first County Surveyor of Hancock county and later

became a County Commissioner and also served in the State Legislature. He also was a School Examiner. In 1849 he was named Postmaster of Findlay.

He was one of the organizers of the First Presbyterian church in Findlay.

One of his daughters married J. S. Patterson, who was a pioneer Findlay merchant and whose connection with the local retail business went back to 1849, when the present Patterson department store was founded.

Mr. Taylor died in 1867.

VI

JACOB ROSENBERG was the first Findlay editor. He started the Findlay Courier Nov. 10, 1836.

He was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1811. He had been in Findlay only a few months when he started the Courier. It was a five column newspaper, published on Thursdays.

None of the first issues are available today. However, the present Findlay Republican-Courier has a portion of issue No. 44, published the following year.

In 1840, Mr. Rosenberg sold the newspaper to Henry Bishop and then started the Hancock Farmer. Mr. Rosenberg had been elected sheriff of Hancock county in 1838. He died in 1848.

VII

THE FIRST ministers of the gospel to come to Findlay represented the Methodist church. In the spring of 1822, the Rev. James Gilruth, a Methodist, arrived here and preached for a time. The Rev. Adam Poe, also a Methodist, came a few years later and preached in the old log school house. He later went to Delaware, O., and helped found Ohio Wesleyan University there.

In the late 1820's itinerant Baptist and Presbyterian clergymen arrived also.

The first Methodist group to become organized in Findlay dates back to 1829. It met regularly and in 1832 became a mission church, with the Rev. Elam Day and the Rev. Benjamin Allen as the co-ministers.

The First Presbyterian church was organized Dec. 21, 1831 by the Rev. Peter Monfort, a missionary from southern Ohio.

Chapter 3

Land Measurement In Hancock County

I

WHEN NORTHWESTERN OHIO was ordered surveyed for settlement 150 years ago, a base line was projected starting at the Indiana boundary line on the west and running directly east until it intersected the southwestern corner of the old Western Reserve at the approximate junction of Seneca and Huron counties. The line was intended to run exactly on the 41st parallel of latitude. However, it runs about a half mile below the parallel, as a matter of fact. The reason for this situation is believed by surveyors to be the lack of accurate data in the early pioneer days when the land was laid out.

The base line was for the purpose of measurement and survey in establishing geographical lines. It starts at the Indiana state line and runs straight eastward through the first four Ohio counties, to the east. The starting point on the Indiana-Ohio boundary is about a half mile below the point where the Paulding-Van Wert line meets the Indiana border.

The base line is largely without roads to mark its path across Hancock county. Township road No. 80, the east end of which was closed recently near the intersection with U. S. Highway No. 68 to make way for the Findlay by-pass, lies directly on the base line. Some roads in other parts of the county also follow this line but no highway traverses the line completely across the county.

The 41st parallel is also without highways largely. Township road No. 145 which runs west for a short ways from the extension of South Main street, just below Findlay's corporation, is just about on the parallel until the road curves in a northwesterly direction. In Marion and Biglick townships, for a distance of two miles, township road No. 202 is also close to the parallel. Otherwise the line is a wholly imaginary one across Hancock county.

Northwestern Ohio was the last area of the state to be settled. This was because of the great black swamp, which existed here, making settlement difficult. It was not until after the war of 1812 and the conquest of the Indian territory north of General Mad Anthony Wayne's so-called treaty line some distance below here that the survey of the northwest area of the state was ordered by the federal government.

A plan of land measurement for public lands was followed that had been established by Congress for such lands some time after the Revolutionary war. Ohio was the first state where it was employed. A display in the Hall of Archives in Washington where each state has an exhibit dealing with that state shows as the Ohio entry this plan of land measurement, with attention being called to Ohio's distinction of being the first state to have public lands so measured.

The base line as established was about midway between the Michigan boundary line and the Wayne treaty line. Then a system of ranges running north and south was established, each range being six miles in width. There are 38 ranges across Ohio between Indiana and Pennsylvania, making the state's width 228 miles from border to border. In the new northwest area there were established 17 ranges from the Indiana border to the Western Reserve's western boundary line and 21 ranges on to the Pennsylvania boundary line, or 38 in all.

Hancock county is located in ranges nine, ten, eleven and twelve, range number one, of course, bordering the Indiana state line on the west. Townships bordering the base line, on the north—Blanchard, Liberty, Marion and Biglick—bear the number "one", and the designation "north". Townships bordering the base line, on the south — Union, Eagle, Jackson and Amanda — also bear the number "one", but they are designated "south."

The row of townships just north of Blanchard, Liberty, Marion and Biglick, which are Pleasant, Portage, Allen, Cass and Washington bear the number "two" because they are the second series of townships north of the base line. They also carry the designation "north" since they are north of the base line. Similarly, the townships lying south of Union, Eagle, Jackson and Amanda, which are Orange, Van Buren, Madison and Delaware, bear the number "two" and the designation "south."

The numbering system for township extends into counties north and south of the base line between the Michigan border and the Wayne treaty line which runs east from around Fort Recovery in Mercer county. Thus the townships immediately north of the Hancock county border and the northern borders of other nearby counties also north of the base line bear the number "three", because they are the third series or "tiers" of townships north of the base line. Likewise those to the south also bear the number "three", for they are the third series or "tiers" south.

The enactment of Congress setting up the land measurement system which was to be used in Ohio for the first time provided that all other states should follow this means of establishing boundary lines.

II

RANGE LINES, as set up by the federal government, running north and south, also extend into the other counties north and south, bearing the same numbers as those in Hancock county.

The range lines north and south follow township lines largely, except where townships are now smaller than the full Congressional size.

Range number nine on the extreme west side of the county begins at the Putnam county line and follows the north and south boundary lines of Orange, Union, Blanchard and Pleasant townships. Range number 10 runs from this boundary line to the exact center of Hancock county, following the extensions of South and North Main streets in Findlay, north and south to Wood and Hardin counties.

The next range boundary line lies between Cass and Washington townships and Marion and Biglick townships, north and south and continues on south through Amanda and Delaware townships. The eastern borders of Washington and Biglick townships are the eastern boundary lines of range 12, which enters Wyandot county at the southeastern corner of the latter township.

The plan of land measurement which was authorized by Congress and used in northwestern Ohio for the first time called for townships to be six miles square and divided into sections of one mile square, resulting in 36 sections in each township. Each section contains 640 acres of land. Such townships are called Congressional townships, because they follow the act of Congress exactly.

In practically all counties there have been deviations from the Congressional township plan, because of changes in county boundaries, such as developed in Hancock county when Wyandot county was given part of southeastern Hancock county by the State Legislature in 1845.

But the system of range lines and township designations from the base line still exists. What has happened has been a reduction in the number of sections in some townships, as developments have altered township boundaries.

Subdivision of the area within sections results in quarter sections, or 160 acres, or half of a quarter, making 80 acres of land.

All deeds transferring title to township lands contain a full description of the area so transferred by designation of the range, the township number, direction from the base line and section number with a statement as to just what part of the section is involved.

Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio, in describing the system of land measurement as prescribed by the Congressional enactment says:

"In the history of land surveys this is the first application of the rectangular system of lots in squares of one mile, with meridian lines and corner posts at each mile where the number of the section, township and range was put on the witness-trees in letters and figures.

"It should be regarded as one of the great American inventions and credit for it is due to Thomas Hutchins, the geographer of the United States."

By "witness trees," the author meant the trees on which the surveyors placed their marks as they made their original surveys.

In connection with land measurement, it is interesting to observe that the small jogs which occur in roads at township and county boundaries are due to allowance which must be made with regard to early survey lines. They are known as "correction" jogs.

III

WHEN OHIO WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION as an independent state, one of the terms of admission was that the fee simple to all the lands within its limits, excepting those previously granted or sold, should vest in the United States. At the time of admission in 1802, some parts of the area had already been granted or sold to various individuals, companies or groups.

The general area comprising northwest Ohio was described as Congress land, because it was part of the state which still remained in the hands of the federal government and was yet to be sold.

The lands were sold at district land offices, established in various areas. Much of the Hancock county land was sold from Bucyrus. Deeds contained the name of the president of the United States, representing the government in the sale. An agent signed for him, of course. Records of these original deeds are found in the office of the County Recorder at the Court House.

The minimum price for the land was first established at \$2.00 per acre, then reduced to \$1.25 per acre in 1820. It was after 1820 before any Hancock county land was sold, so the \$1.25 price prevailed for land in this county. The records seem to indicate that no sales were made below quarter sections.

The first deed records in the office of County Recorder Waldo C. Folk at the Court House show the \$1.25 per acre price for the land which was acquired from the government.

Calculations show that at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, the agricultural area of Hancock county cost the original purchasers approximately \$400,000, when the land was bought from Uncle Sam. The farm lands of Hancock county now stand on the tax duplicate at more than \$32,000,000 and are actually worth several times that figure or possibly close to \$100,000,000.

Some Hancock county land was bought by the original owners from the state of Ohio, rather than the federal government. When the development of canals began early in the 19th century within Ohio, the federal government gave the state of Ohio substantial acreage from its unsold areas to encourage canal projects and the state then sold the land to those desiring it, utilizing the receipts from such sales as funds with which to help construct the canals. One canal went through Putnam county to the west of Hancock county on a north and south route connecting the Great Lakes at Toledo with southern Ohio.

At its eastern terminus, the base line through western Ohio meets the southwest corner of the Western Reserve, which was an area commencing at the Pennsylvania line and extending westward a distance of 120 miles, and running approximately 50 miles in depth from the lake. This area, once belonging to the state of Connecticut, was laid out and surveyed a number of years before northwest Ohio was opened.

Originally there were 20 designated areas within the state, which came into being through grants, purchases and the like over the early years. This included the area known as Congress lands, of which northwest Ohio was a part. All these areas have an interesting history and background.

The area owned by Connecticut had the 41st parallel as its southern boundary and the county lines of Seneca and Sandusky counties as its western limit. Connecticut took this land in exchange for more extensive areas in the old Northwest territory, in a settlement with the government.

During the revolutionary war, the English burned the towns of New London, Fairfield and Norwalk, in Connecticut and the state in 1792 granted 500,000 acres in the western part of her reserve to the inhabitants of these burned out towns. The area became known as the Firelands.

The state of Virginia claimed much of the area which became Ohio and finally settled for what became known as the Virginia military district in southern Ohio just east of Cincinnati and Dayton. This tract consisted of 4,204,000 acres. Virginia gave the land to soldiers to satisfy their claims against the state. This tract is not surveyed into townships of any regular size.

An interesting area is that known as the refugee tract. During the Revolutionary War, many people in Canada and Nova Scotia were in sympathy with the colonists in their war with England. As a result their property and homes were confiscated and they fled to the colonies for safety. Congress set aside about 58,000 acres to provide new homes for these people. The tract was located in Franklin and Fairfield counties in central Ohio. Columbus is located within this tract. Only about half of the 58,000 acres were claimed.

Chapter 4

Findlay's First Business District In Pioneer Days Recalled

WHAT WAS FINDLAY's first business district like? How far did it extend and what were the businesses that were originally established on Main St. in the new settlement?

The interesting answers to these queries are found in the historical accounts of the late Miss Florence Blackford, who wrote extensively of the local community's early days when she was a member of the news staff of the former Morning Republican in Findlay around the turn of the century.

Miss Blackford's information came from authentic sources. Her grandfather, Price Blackford, came to the new town in 1834 and served for many years as justice of the peace. From him came much information as to Findlay's early days. His granddaughter has provided us with many facts about those early times. From the files of the newspaper for which she wrote we are able to learn much with regard the Findlay of those pioneer times.

There has been set down for us an exact picture of what Findlay's business section looked like at the outset of the town's development. The town had been laid out in the 1820's and the county organized in 1828.

I

THE TOWN was still small in the mid-1830's. The 1830 federal census had only given the settlement 52 residents. The settled area was largely from the Blanchard river south to Sandusky St., then known as Back St., as the original plat described it to link it with Front St. at the other end of town. What additional settlement there was developed at first east of Main St. towards East St.

Miss Blackford starts with the county's first jail, which she says was located on the public square, now the location of the court house. This was

the only building on the square, she adds. The town plat, as laid out by Wilson Vance, the town's "proprietor," gave this property to the county for public building purposes, as well as some other lots which were sold to provide funds with which to erect the first public structures.

The author then describes the properties from the jail north on the west side of Main St. Across W. Main Cross St., at the corner where the Ohio Bank and Savings company building now stands, was the "large commodious, two-story brick just completed by William Taylor." Miss Blackford goes on to say that he had moved his family into the second story and "a large and comprehensive stock of dry goods and other articles were displayed for sale on the first floor."

This brick building was later moved to Broadway where the Broadway Sandwich Shop now stands. Subsequently it was razed, but not until some 20 or 30 years ago.

Mr. Taylor was one of the little town's leading citizens. He became the first county surveyor and also served as a county commissioner and representative to the state legislature, as well as an early postmaster. He had come to Findlay in 1828. His daughter married the late J. S. Patterson, who founded the Patterson store here, in 1849.

A few feet further north, according to Miss Blackford, was a two story frame building in which Christian Barnd had a grocery store. On further north at the alley stood the one-story house occupied by John H. Morrison, an attorney. Across the alley was a story and a half dwelling, which Mr. Taylor had originally built but which by the mid 1830's had become a hotel, known as the "Findlay House" and owned and operated by W. M. Nigh. A two-story frame house, owned by Abraham Daughenbaugh came next. On the corner of Front St. stood the residence and store of Squire Carlin, who had come to Findlay in 1826. The structure was built of logs. Squire Carlin, whose brother Parlee followed him here by two years, opened Findlay's first store at this location. The property stood on lot No. 1.

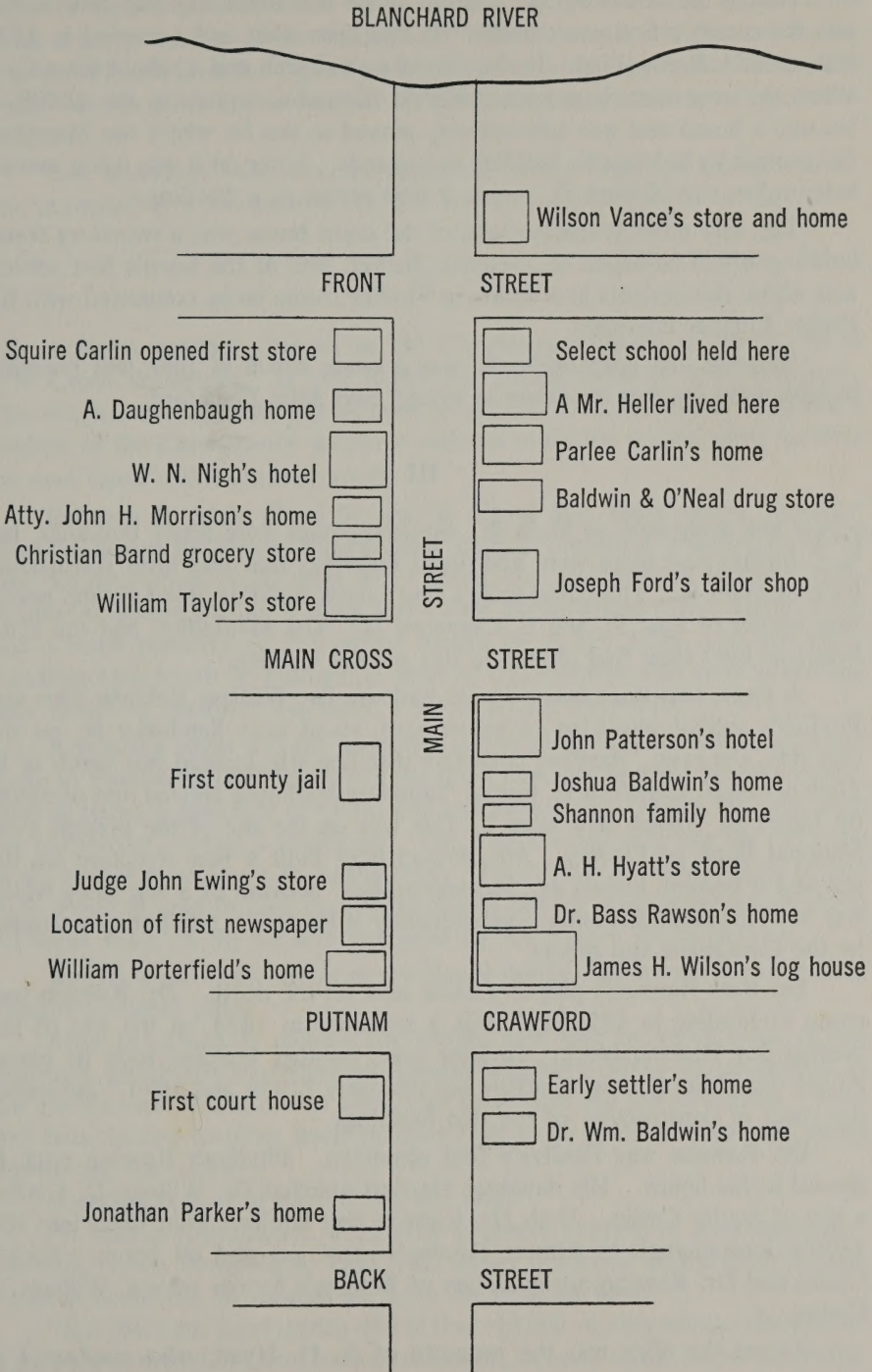
II

ACROSS FROM the Carlin property stood Fort Findlay. Parts of the fort were still standing when Squire Carlin built his property.

Returning to the location of the jail on the public square, Miss Blackford then describes the pattern on south. At the corner of what is now Court St. stood the property of Judge John Ewing. This later came to be known as the "Old White Corner." A store occupied one corner and the rest was used as living quarters. Just beyond was a two-story frame, where Jacob Rosenberg started the Findlay Courier in 1836. It was the town's first newspaper. Mr. Rosenberg lived with his family in the home, which also served as a printing plant.

The only other building in this square was a "large frame near the corner in which William Porterfield was living in the 1830's. A portion of

Main Street Pattern In Community In Mid-1830's



the lower floor was occupied by a chairmaker's establishment. Mr. Porterfield was to become Findlay's second mayor after the town's incorporation in 1838.

Across the street on the corner, where the Jones building now stands was the county's first court house. It had been built and occupied in 1833 and resembled a dwelling. It also served as a church and a school for a time. When the new court house was built on the public square in the 1840's, it became a home and was subsequently moved to the lot where the Marathon Oil company's S. Main St. building now stands. Later on it was again moved, being taken to 819 Park St., where it now serves as a dwelling.

The only other property south of the court house was a two-story frame building which belonged to Jonathan Parker, one of the town's first settlers and whose descendants now reside in Findlay, some being connected with the Parker Lumber company.

"Beyond that point Main St. was a swale which in June was beautiful to look upon but was uncertain to tread," says Miss Blackford.

III

ON THE EAST SIDE of Main St., she says, there were fewer buildings, but further east there were additional buildings that had been constructed back of Main St. The community's first school building stood on the north-west corner of East St. and E. Crawford St. The Methodists and the Presbyterians built their first church in this general vicinity.

A large, two-story frame house built by Dr. William Baldwin who was Findlay's second physician to arrive here, stood near Sandusky St. on the east side, she says. Another two-story dwelling was located just north of it. Then across E. Crawford St. was an "immense log house erected and occupied by James H. Wilson as a store." This was on the site of the present First National Bank of Findlay. Mr. Wilson later built a new structure on the site and it became known as "Melodeon Hall" because of a top story which was used for entertainments. Subsequently it became a retail store occupied by the Carnahans and others.

Dr. Bass Rawson's property came next on the north. Dr. Rawson had come to Findlay in 1829 and built a structure in 1834 on the site of the present day Rawson block. In later years another building took its place. At the top of the present structure are the dates "1834 and 1893," indicating the years of construction of the two buildings.

Dr. Rawson was Findlay's first physician. Findlay's Rawson park is named in his honor. His daughter Harriett married Dr. William D. Carlin, a son of Squire Carlin. Both Dr. Rawson and Squire Carlin lived into the 1890's, long enough to witness Findlay's great gas and oil boom. Squire Carlin and Dr. Rawson are ancestors of Findlay's former mayor, William J. Carlin.

Across the alley was the property of A. H. Hyatt, who conducted a

store. Mr. Hyatt and his heirs continued to own this property for a good many years. The first Hyatt block was built in the 1830's and this was followed by the present newer structure at a later time. The Hyatt family made a gift to the city of the "leaky boot" water fountain which stood on the rear court house lawn for a good many years, but which was taken out later to make way for other improvements. The fountain was taken apart and never restored.

Two dwellings were directly across the street from the public square, one occupied by a Shannon family and the other by Joshua Baldwin.

IV

A FAMOUS TAVERN, known as the Caravansary stood on the E. Main Cross St. corner. It was under the management of John Patterson. The site has always been the location of a hotel. A. H. Hyatt occupied a portion of the Caravansary property with his store for a time until he built his own block a little further south.

Between E. Main Cross St. and E. Front Sts., there was a one-story frame occupied by Joseph Ford's tailor shop, a one-story building in which was the drug store of Baldwin and O'Neal, the residence of Parlee Carlin, brother of Squire Carlin, a story and a half house where a Mr. Heller lived and a brick property on the corner owned by a Mr. Kagy. In this brick building, Miss Sarah A. Baldwin, a sister of Dr. Baldwin, and later to become Mrs. Sarah A. Strother, conducted a select school for pupils.

Across the street was the residence and store of Wilson Vance, who had come to Findlay in 1821 to lay out the town after his brother, Joseph Vance, later to become governor of Ohio, and two others had bought the area with the purpose of starting a settlement. Mr. Vance's property was the only one in the square from Front St. to the river. The Vance house was later moved to E. Front St. and formed part of the Barnd Sisters' greenhouse which stood for some years on the lot now occupied by the Fornes Brake Service.

Relatives and descendants of the Vance family still are numbered among Findlay's citizens today.

Miss Blackford in closing her article said that in 1898 most of the buildings which she described as forming Findlay's Main St. properties in the 1830's were still in use in some way then, save the log structures. They had been moved to other parts of town, but most of them were still seeing service yet, she added.

Speaking further of the old jail, she said:

"It was a convenience which the pioneers seemed to find essential," she said, "even though they slept with doors unlocked and placed nothing where it could not be secured by those on mischief bent.

"But there are great stories told of that old jail; of men who let themselves out of the commodious quarters; of men who let each other out of its grasps;

or of men, who got out by themselves and when they had had the "time" they set out after, quietly returned and again took up their board and lodging at the county's expense."

The jail burned down later on, the suspicion being that one of the inmates was responsible. A second jail was built on the property formerly occupied by the Diesel-Wemmer Gilbert cigar plant which razed the structure in 1912 when it built its plant there. The present jail was built in 1879.

V

IT IS INTERESTING that one of the lots involved between the river and Sandusky St. is still in the hands of the same family today. It is the Rawson block. The original building in 1834 was built by Dr. Rawson and members of his family still hold the property.

The lot just north of the Ohio Bank & Savings company of today remained in the hands of descendants of the original owner for many years. It was owned originally by William Taylor and relatives of Mr. Taylor continued to own it until a few decades ago.

At the end of her article, Miss Blackford says:

"There were but 14 young people in the village in the mid 1830's and while these 14 have rolled up history that any historian might be proud to chronicle, and while they determinedly secured much of the pleasures of youth, it was because they intended to be happy and not because the surroundings were particularly inspiring. These 14 young people profited by the energy of their elders and proved most creditable representatives of the sterling manhood and womanhood which found itself so severely tried in the opening up of the great Northwest."

Chapter 5

Gas and Oil Changed Course Of Findlay's History

I

THE COURSE OF FINDLAY'S HISTORY changed dramatically in the late 1880's. Almost overnight, the small county seat town in northwestern Ohio of less than 5,000 inhabitants became the center of the entire nation's interest because of what was happening here.

Natural gas had been discovered in Findlay in a volume that was hitherto unknown. It brought a "new day" to Findlay and completely transformed the community's life.

Few towns in the United States have ever experienced such a sudden change as developed in Findlay when natural gas burst forth in such great quantities here.

It was a "boom" time. But unlike most towns which experience "booms", Findlay was enabled to hold most of its gains and emerge a bigger and better community.

The story is an exceedingly interesting one.

Some of the town's citizens had long felt that they detected evidences of a substantial vein of gas beneath the surface of the earth. There had been a few meager discoveries of very small quantities of natural gas in the area through the early years.

Dr. Charles Oesterlen, a physician who had come from Germany, settling here in the 1830's, held the firm opinion that there was gas beneath the town and that it could be successfully tapped, to provide a supply of fuel. He advanced his theory to his friends, but had difficulty in persuading them.

Finally in 1884, he was able to induce some of the town's citizens that his theory was worthy of a test. The Findlay Natural Gas company was organized and drilling started. The well was located on Dr. Oesterlen's farm, on the east edge of Findlay. It proved a success, with the discovery

of a substantial vein of gas. A depth of 1,648 feet was reached Dec. 5, 1884. The well produced 250,000 cubic feet of gas every 24 hours.

The well is still in existence and gas still flows from the hole. Its location is now on the Hancock county fair grounds along the east bank of Lye creek. An appropriate marker has been erected on the site.

"He Laid the Foundation for His City's Advancement" reads the appropriate inscription on Dr. Oesterlen's monument in Maple Grove cemetery.

II

THE OESTERLEN WELL DISCOVERY stimulated feverish drilling operations in the town. Other wells went down with good results during the ensuing year of 1885.

But it was the great Karg gas well which produced the "boom". This history-making well was completed Jan. 20, 1886. Its size exceeded anything man had ever experienced before. Findlay became the center of national and even world attention as a consequence of the Karg well's performance.

The initial flow of gas was measured at 12,000,000 cubic feet daily. The gigantic well could not be brought under control for more than four months. The gas was ignited and the light was so intense that newspapers could be read at night at a distance of up to 16 miles from the well, the records reveal. The reflection at certain times could be seen for a distance of 40 miles away. The well's roar could be clearly heard for five or more miles.

The well was located on the south bank of the Blanchard river at the foot of Liberty street. A marker has been erected to designate the well's location.

"The scene is one of indescribable grandeur", wrote a correspondent for a Toledo newspaper who visited the scene. "The color of people's clothing a half mile away could be distinctly discerned. Within a hundred feet of the flame it was uncomfortably hot, although it was January. For a considerable distance about the well and even across the river the grass was growing with the luxuriance of May and the water in the river below, everywhere else covered with solid ice, was as blue and limpid as a lake."

The fame of the well soon spread and lured thousands of sightseers from nearby communities and even beyond. Excursion trains were run into Findlay on the railroads daily, bringing many to view the remarkable sight.

It was a time of great excitement, naturally. The great well indicated that a vast storehouse of gas was beneath the town and plans for more wells developed rapidly.

III

AS THE NEW WELLS CONFIRMED the existence of what seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of natural gas, the "boom" took form and Findlay began to expand. The gas meant a cheap supply of fuel for industry. Land

beneath which there might be gas was eagerly sought and values multiplied.

People poured into the little community in droves, from everywhere. They scented the opportunity to get rich quickly. Newspapers over the country told the story of Findlay's good fortune and their glittering accounts induced many to make their way to the northwestern Ohio community which soon took the name of "The Brilliant City."

Industry soon came to Findlay to take advantage of the offer of free gas and free sites which an enthusiastic city extended. More than a score of new manufacturing institutions located in Findlay in a year's time. Many of them were glass plants, which relied heavily upon natural gas as a source of fuel.

The town's Chamber of Commerce proclaimed Findlay's advantages and opportunities far and wide. Circulars were issued with the heading "Free Fuel! Free Light! Free Sites!" They further proclaimed Findlay as "the natural mid-continental manufacturing city" and as the "best city in the union for the establishment of manufacturing industries."

A picture of one of the city's huge gas wells was prominently displayed with this description: "One of the 30 test wells now producing in all over 60,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day, or enough to supply a city twice the size of Chicago with all her light, fuel and power for all purposes."

Speculators were not long in moving in. There was a demand for real estate that knew no bounds, of which they took much advantage. Prices of property soared and sometimes a single parcel changed hands a half dozen times within a brief span. Profits in some instances went into six figures, on a single transaction.

The city's life underwent a sudden transformation, as might be imagined. People flocked into Findlay in such numbers that hotels, boarding houses and restaurants were swamped. Main street was a crowded place and crowds overflowed the sidewalks in the business area, we are told.

IV

WHEN THE WELLS CAME IN, Findlay was a town of less than 5,000 population. The 1880 federal census gave the town a total of 4,633 inhabitants. Findlay was the county seat of an agricultural community, which depended little upon industry for its economic stability. In early 1887, a special census showed that 10,221 persons lived in Findlay, or more than double the 1880 census. By the time of the 1890 federal census, there were 18,553 inhabitants, or four times the 1880 figure.

When the "boom" came, the city's territorial area consisted of but four square miles. Within a few years, the city's area had grown so that it included 24 square miles.

At one time, lots were laid out clear to what is now North Findlay on the north, so enthusiastic were the leaders of the community with regard to prospects for continued growth.

The city's public schools developed real problems. In a single year,

there were 600 new pupils to be accommodated, or nearly as many as had been enrolled altogether in the pre-gas days. Within a couple years, nine new school buildings were constructed. Some were only four room buildings.

The churches also experienced problems of greatly enlarged congregations. The municipal government had to take drastic measures to cope with its problems of expansion of city area. New dwellings went up at a rapid rate. Altogether, it was a never-to-be-forgotten era in Findlay's history.

Big as the Karg well was, it was not the largest to be drilled in Findlay. The record was held by the Tippecanoe well, which was located on the north side of East Bigelow avenue, just west of the New York Central railroad. Its production was measured at 31,000,000 cubic feet daily, against the Karg well's 12,000,000 cubic feet. There were many wells with a range of from 1,000,000 cubic feet on up to 10,000,000 cubic feet.

In June, 1887, the city decided to celebrate. An elaborate three-day program of festivities was carried out to signalize the community's fortunate situation and to focus attention upon the advantages Findlay could offer new industry. It was a gala and memorable event and its many interesting features captivated the large crowds which joined in the celebration.

The town was gaily bedecked for the celebration. Banners were strung across Main street, proclaiming that "Women Split No Wood in Findlay", "It costs \$1.05 per year to keep Warm in Findlay", "Findlay, the Center of the World" and the like.

In June, 1937, the 50th anniversary of the 1887 observance was appropriately marked with a week-long program in Findlay, with due recognition of the contribution of the "boom" of the 1880's to the growth and development of the Findlay of today.

V

THE GAS ERA moved forward steadily through 1888 and 1889 in Findlay, but it was due for a setback in 1890. The supply had seemed endless, but when some of the new gas wells came in less favorably and older ones started to show production losses around 1890, the community began to realize that there was a day of reckoning ahead. Waste too, played a role in hastening early exhaustion.

But again fortune smiled on the community and oil took the place of the gas to help keep the gains of the gas "boom." There had been some indications of oil in earlier days, but not much significance was attached to any belief that oil might be here.

In 1885, oil had been discovered in Allen county when a well was drilled for gas. A little later, a Findlay well, also drilled for gas, developed a small flow of oil. The first real oil well in Findlay and Hancock county was drilled on West Main Cross street on the Mathias Brick Yard. It was completed Nov. 6, 1885 and began flowing at the rate of 300 barrels per day.

Other oil wells followed in Hancock county as well as Allen and Wood counties and eventually an oil field of substantial size was developed. One

consequence of the development was the organization of the Ohio Oil company on Aug. 1, 1887 at Lima. (Seventy-five years later in 1962, the company's name was changed to Marathon Oil company). The company's general office for Hancock and Wood counties was established in Findlay in charge of J. C. Donnell. From this beginning has grown the company as it exists today, with its world-wide operations, all directed and guided from the general offices which are now located in Findlay, which regards itself as most fortunate to possess this asset of immeasurable value to the community.

The gas in Findlay continued to flow in reduced volume through the 1890's. Some of the manufacturing institutions which had been attracted here by the new fuel began to disappear and by 1900 many of them had gone. The last glass factory closed down in the early 1900's.

The oil, which enabled the community to hold most of its "boom" progress, flowed in a rich stream through the 1890's and on into the new century. It brought new wealth to the community and meant much to the city's economic stability in the ensuing years.

Eventually the oil wells played out, but oil has left the community a legacy that is incalculable in all its benefits.

With its oil and gas background responsible for so much of its growth and progress, Findlay, as can be observed, is a city with an exceedingly fascinating story.

Chapter 6

The Street Car Era

I

THE ERA OF THE STREET CAR, which came and departed within almost a single generation, held a high degree of interest, locally.

Findlay's street cars operated a little over 40 years, first with horse and mule power, then electrically. They filled a big need for transportation, especially in the pre-automobile days. The first cars appeared on the streets of the city in the late 1880's. Early in the 1930's, they disappeared, due to the competition of the automobiles and trucks.

The city's first street cars came with the oil and gas boom in the late 1880's. An extensive system of car lines developed as the city grew and expanded with the boom. The cars were pulled by horses and mules. They operated not only on Main street, but into other areas of the city, as well.

In the 1890's electric cars displaced the cars which horses and mules had pulled. At that time, only a Main street line was in operation, the other lines having been discontinued for lack of patronage.

The Main street electric car line operated as far south as a point near the present location of the First Presbyterian church on the south. A line north to North Findlay (Mortimer) had been developed and one of the city cars, a little larger than the others, ran to this point to connect with the Nickel Plate railroad passenger trains there. The cars operated only within the city stopped at the north limits of the city.

A few years after the turn of the century, a system of interurban transportation developed, with Findlay as its hub. Three street car lines to nearby communities were financed and developed, with Findlay as a terminal point. They handled a vast amount of passenger and freight traffic. They performed a vital service in transportation in the 20 some years of their existence. In the end, they had to yield to the automobile and the truck. Early in the 1930's, they went out of business. The city line, too, was discontinued. The motor age had proved too much for them.

THE THREE ELECTRIC LINES operating in and out of Findlay to and from adjoining communities were:

The Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction company, which operated not only a city system of street cars, but also a 45-mile line between Findlay and Toledo, touching Van Buren, North Baltimore, Cygnet, Bowling Green and Maumee.

The Toledo, Fostoria and Findlay Railway company which ran between Findlay and Toledo, also, but on a different route than the other line. The "T.F.&F.," as it was known, operated through Fostoria, Risingsun, Pemberville, Walbridge and into Toledo.

The Western Ohio Electric company, which ran between Findlay and Lima and on south to Wapakoneta and a little further to connect with another interurban line into Dayton.

The first cars of the trio of such lines began to operate not long after the turn of the century. The "T.B.G.&S.," as the road was popularly known, was the first to function. The other two followed not long afterwards.

The route of the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern followed North Main street in Findlay, straight north, along the east side of the present highway north of the city. The right-of-way can still be observed along much of the distance in Hancock county. The route continued north past Van Buren until a point just this side of the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad where the rails headed due west to North Baltimore. From there on north, they continued north through several towns on the way, until the Maumee river was reached. Here it was necessary to construct a large bridge. The abandoned abutments of the span can still be seen just west of the present U. S. No. 25 highway bridge across the river. From Maumee, the tracks went past the state asylum and on into Toledo over leased trackage.

The Toledo, Fostoria and Findlay line came into Findlay on Tiffin avenue and Center street from Fostoria. A popular pleasure resort — Reeves Park — was located along this line just east of Arcadia. The park, named for Sam Reeves, one of the builders of the line, was a part of the street car property and was developed to stimulate business on the trolley system. There was an auditorium for entertainment, a baseball diamond and other attractions. Many from Findlay patronized the resort, one of whose regular summer features was a week's appearance by the Five Columbians, the famed Miller dancing family of which Marilyn Miller was the child star.

The Western Ohio Electric line entered Findlay on Lima avenue from the southwest. It went through Rawson, Mt. Cory, Bluffton and Beaver Dam. The route ran out the Lima road for a few miles, then veered north to the present Nickel Plate railroad to go through Rawson and Mt. Cory, later returning to the vicinity of the Lima road to continue on to Lima.

Headquarters for the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction company were in Findlay, while the head offices of the Toledo, Fostoria and Findlay line were in Fostoria. The Western Ohio offices were in Lima.

The Western Ohio line from Findlay to Lima and on south was completed at the close of 1905. The finishing of this link between Findlay and Lima closed a gap that was highly important in inter-line travel.

The records show that the first decade of the present century witnessed the building of more than 2,000 miles of electric interurban railways in Ohio. The decade previously had witnessed initial successes in the trolley car field. In 1893, successful interurban service had been opened between Sandusky and Norwalk. This was followed by a line between Cleveland and Akron. By 1900, plans were under way for many other lines in Ohio and neighboring states.

III

A N IMPORTANT EVENT in the history of transportation in the United States took place in Findlay Dec. 30, 1905, when a golden spike was driven at the corner of South Main street and Lima street to complete the connecting of electric railway systems of four states — Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

The act joined some 70 interurban lines with a total of 3,700 miles representing an investment of \$100,000,000. The line was the Findlay-Lima division of the Western Ohio electric line. It became possible to ride by electric car from Bay City, Mich., to Cincinnati, or from Titusville, Pa., to Crawfordsville, Ind.

Plans to close the 31-mile gap between Findlay and Lima had been made as early as 1902 when the Western Ohio opened service between Lima and St. Marys, with connections to Dayton and Cincinnati. The Findlay-Lima gap was the single missing link in the four-state hook-up.

In January, 1905, actual work on the stretch started with the Cleveland Construction company as the contractor. A Cleveland financial syndicate raised the money.

As the work neared completion, publicity concerning the importance of the line became nation-wide. National leaders in the electric line field became greatly interested and the Street Railway Journal furnished a golden spike to be driven when the line was completed, joining it with the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern and Toledo, Fostoria and Findlay interurban lines here.

Arrangements were made for the event to take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, 1905 at South Main street and Lima street. A gang of men worked all night to have the track ready for the ceremony. On the big day, visitors came to Findlay from many points. A special group came from Cleveland in a magnificent special car of the Cleveland and Southwestern electric line, travelling via Sandusky and Toledo street car lines. Another group was here from New York. The parlor car "Harriett" of the Dayton and Troy street car line came with officials. There were other special cars, as well.

Two Western Ohio cars were to bring guests from Lima, but the owner of the Lima street car line forbade use of some new track in the north end of Lima by the big interurbans, claiming it was in bad repair. So, Charles F.

Smith, general manager of the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern, sent two of his cars over the Western Ohio tracks to the outskirts of Lima, to bring those from Lima here.

The result was a delay in the ceremonies until 5 p.m. President A. E. Aitkens, of the Western Ohio, held the golden spike and in four blows it was driven into the tie prepared for it. A large crowd witnessed the event in the gathering darkness. A short address was made by a Lima leader and afterward the guests went to the Phoenix Hotel for a banquet. F. D. Carpenter, manager of the Western Ohio, was toastmaster. Mayor C. B. Metcalf, of Findlay, welcomed the visitors. M. J. Blake, of New York, spoke for the Street Railway Journal. More than 100 participated in the banquet.

The golden spike, removed from the tie, was on the speakers' table, reposing in a case. It carried the following inscription: "Last spike in the connecting link of Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan electric lines by the Western Ohio railway, Findlay, Ohio. Dec. 30, 1905. Presented by the Street Railway Journal."

The event gave great impetus to other lines to move forward with their plans. In 1911, the Fostoria-Fremont line was completed, making direct service to Cleveland from Findlay and Lima possible without going via Toledo.

At one time, excursions by electric cars were widely advertised from Indianapolis to Niagara Falls, via the Findlay-Lima connecting link.

IV

AFTER FINDLAY'S THREE ELECTRIC RAILWAYS to neighboring towns were successfully operating, movements for other street car lines to additional areas began to develop here and in towns that would be affected.

One of the most promising was a project involving a Findlay-Marion street car line. This movement took actual form and there was every belief it was going to succeed. Right-of-way was acquired in some areas along the way and tracks were actually laid in Detroit avenue in Kenton, through which it was suggested the line go. But the line never materialized.

Another street car line was proposed between Defiance and Findlay, via Ottawa. This, too, collapsed before it had gotten very far.

Various other lines did develop in this general area. The Ohio Electric ran between Lima and Toledo on a route through Ottawa. Another line operated between Fostoria and Tiffin.

There was a line between Fostoria, Fremont and Sandusky. Toledo and Cleveland were connected by trolley. A through street car operated between Lima and Cleveland through Findlay twice each way daily for a long time, running over tracks of various lines.

The "barns" of the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern, Findlay's "own line" were situated on North Main street at the present location of the Ohio Power company.

With Findlay a terminal point for its three lines, a "turn-around" facility was necessary. There were two, one located on East Sandusky street and

the other on East Hardin street. The large cars would back into a "Y" and then head out in the opposite direction.

Depots were operated by the lines on a joint basis, although the main depot for the "T.B.G.&S." was of course at its headquarters on North Main street. One of the early depots was in the 200 block on South Main street. Another was at the northeast corner of South Main street and East Sandusky street.

Crews of the big cars consisted of a motorman and a conductor. A number of retired crew members now reside in Findlay.

In addition to passengers, the lines operated freight service, as well. Cars carrying nothing but freight operated over the lines, while the passenger cars hauled baggage and package freight.

Some of the lines operated both limited and local service. Cars ran every hour or so. The "limiteds" ran on a faster schedule, with fewer stops.

The street car lines brought problems for city council. Each company had to secure a franchise from the city. In return for this privilege, the city insisted upon certain conditions of operation. One of the matters which concerned council was a protest which persisted from residents of Tiffin avenue and Center street with regards to "shaking" the houses on those thoroughfares when the cars went by. Another came from residents of South Main street between Lima and Lincoln with regard to noise which they claimed resulted from the Western Ohio operating a virtual "freight yard" in that area in the middle of the night as it assembled cars for the run to Lima.

All in all, it was an exceedingly interesting era in the community's history. The street car lines here were part of a state-wide system of 2,600 miles, forming a network that spanned much of the state. Now they are gone, giving way to a new type of transportation which seems destined to remain permanently.

Chapter 7

The Community's Public Utilities

I

PUBLIC UTILITIES perform a vital and necessary service in today's communities. Gas, electricity, water, telephones, and telegraph all contribute to our well being to a very large degree.

It was nearly 30 years after the first settlers arrived in Findlay and Hancock county before they experienced any of the advantages of public utilities. The first business of this kind was a railroad. It came in the fall of 1849. Succeeding decades, then, saw more utilities materialize and expand.

The first railroad was built between Findlay and Carey. Its first trains ran in November, 1849. The county contributed to the expense of construction through a bond issue which was authorized at an election. The line continued operation until around 1930, when the tracks between Findlay and Vanlue were torn up and service halted, due to lack of business. The road still operates freight service on a limited basis between Carey and Vanlue. The road was known as the Big Four for many years.

The railroad which was known for a number of years as the Lake Erie and Western railroad and then later as the Nickel Plate, then becoming in 1964 a part of the Norfolk and Western railroad system, began service in 1860 and was followed by the New York Central in 1883. (The New York Central is now in the midst of merger arrangements with the Pennsylvania.)

The Baltimore and Ohio, the other railroad serving the city and county started operations in 1880 in Findlay, over a branch line running to Deshler. The B. & O. is now merged with the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad.

A fifth railroad which became the Findlay, Fort Wayne and Western began service in 1888, but discontinued operations in 1919. Its tracks are still down in the south part of the city, crossing S. Main st. at Sixth st. They now belong to the New York Central.

Three other railroads which cross all or parts of Hancock county had their origin as follows: Nickel Plate's Chicago-Buffalo line through Arcadia,

North Findlay and McComb, 1881; Baltimore and Ohio main line through northeast section of Hancock county, 1874; Akron, Canton and Youngstown railroad through Mt. Blanchard, Arlington and Jenera, early 1880's. The latter railroad is now part of the new Norfolk and Western System.

With the inauguration of railroad service in 1849, railway express service came a little later. Cunningham Hazlett opened a private express office in August, 1857 and a year later the United States Express company opened a Findlay office with A. R. Belden as agent. The office was at the railroad depot on East Crawford street, then Railroad street. Later the American Express company began operations here.

II

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY built a line into Findlay along the Lake Erie and Western railroad tracks from Fremont to Findlay in 1863. Funds for the line's construction came partly from people living along the route, with promises of the money being returned when the line became profitable.

On Jan. 4, 1864, the first experimental dispatch was sent over the new wires from Fremont to a V. D. Green, who had been named operator at the Findlay office of the company. The first business dispatch handled for a customer was sent from Findlay by Col. William Mungen and the first message received here came to Frederick Henderson. Col. Mungen was a lawyer and had owned several Findlay newspapers and later was to become a member of Congress. Mr. Henderson was associated with J. S. Patterson in the dry goods business at one time. Both of the messages bore dates of Jan. 4, 1864.

The telegraph line was extended no further than Findlay until 1878 when it was completed to Lima.

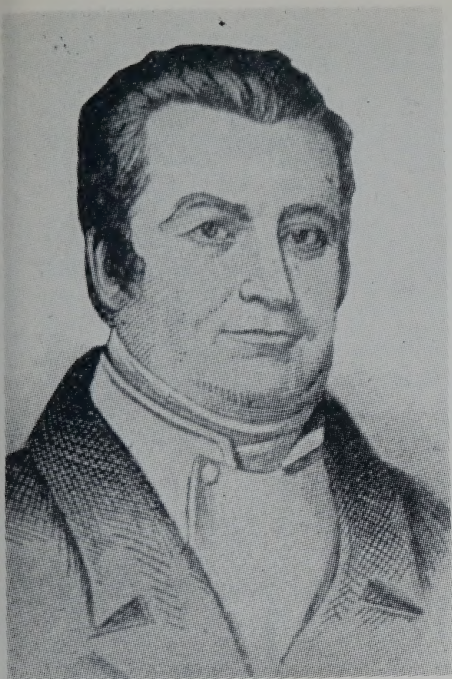
Later years, of course, provided the city with full telegraph and cable service. The Western Union had a competitor here for a time in the Postal Telegraph, but it was later absorbed by the older company.

III

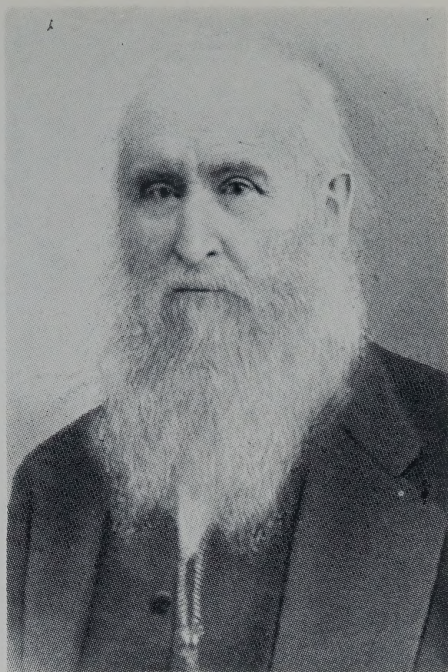
THE FINDLAY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE COMPANY was chartered Jan. 27, 1880 and a telephone line built in Findlay by Samuel D. Houpt. The exchange opened for business in the summer of 1880. Mr. Houpt installed 82 telephone connections and conducted the business until August, 1882, when he sold out to the Midland Telephone company of Chicago. Early in 1884, the Midland took out the telephones and abandoned the field, not knowing, of course, that only a year or so away was the great oil and gas boom which would have well merited their remaining in business here.

In 1885, council granted a telephone franchise to Charles Williams and associates. U. K. Stringfellow became the manager and owner of the system and in 1888 he sold his exchange to the Central Union Telephone company, but retained an interest in the property.

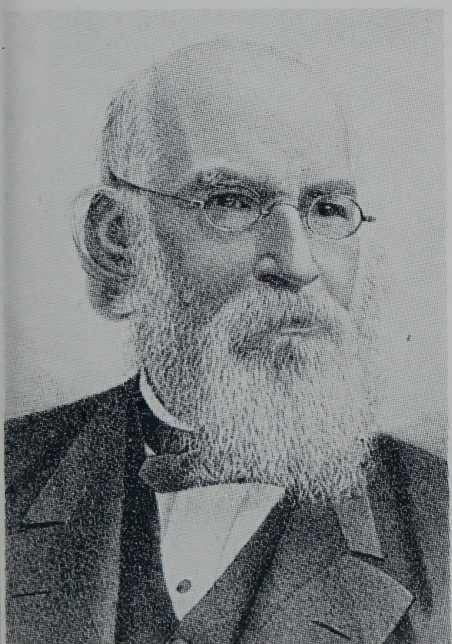
The Central Union was one of the Bell units. Ever since the entry of



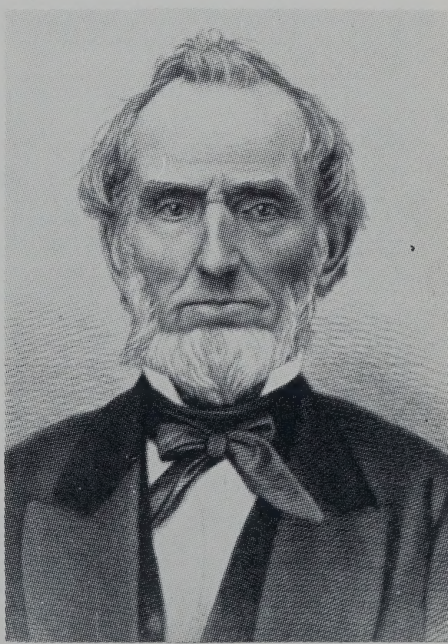
*Col. James Findlay
who built the fort on the banks of the
Blanchard river in 1812, from which
developed the town.*



*Squire Carlin
who arrived in Findlay in 1826 and opened
the settlement's first store.*



*Dr. Charles Oesterlen
who led the movement which demonstrated
that there was gas beneath Findlay's surface.*



*Dr. Bass Rawson
who was Findlay's first physician, arriving
here in 1829.*



VOLUME XXXIV, NO. 40

FINDLAY, OHIO, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918.

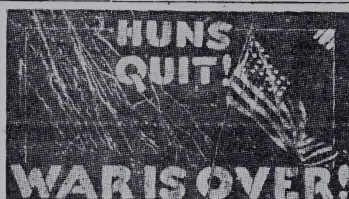
Entered at Findlay, O., Postoffice as
Second-Class Matter

PRICE THREE CENTS

ARMISTICE SIGNED

FORMER KAISER AND OLDEST SON FLEE TO HOLLAND

William, Hohenzollern, the abdicated German emperor and king of Prussia, and his eldest son, Frederick Wilhelm, who hoped some day to rule the German people, are reported to have fled to Holland.



**WAR COMES
TO CLOSE AT
6 O'CLOCK AT
WASHINGTON**

The first world war came to an end November 11, 1918, and the newspaper's subscribers saw these headlines proclaim the happy event.

NO. 13

The Great-Grandfather of All

8,000,000 Feet if a Foot

**No Fire is Permitted
Near the Well.**

It is Expected That All Will be Ready To-Night

And a Great Flame Il-
lumine the Earth.

ABLAZE!

The Findlay Heavens Illumined by

The Fierce Glare of Twenty Million Feet of Burning Gas from the Karg Well.

The Light Seen for many Miles in Every Direction—Grand Turnout of the Citizens, Headed by the Northwestern Band, who Proceed to Welcome the New-comer with Music.

On Monday morning at an early hour arrangements were brought to such a stage of perfection that the huge volume of gas rushing like a whirlwind from the mouth of the Karg well was ignited.

These two excerpts from a Findlay newspaper of January, 1886, told the story of the great Karg gas well, which ushered in the community's historic boom.

ONE-MINUTE PULPIT
THE LORD'S PROMISE: And
shall be able to answer them.

VOL. 11, NO. 295

The Republican-Courier

FINDLAY, OHIO, SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1937



GOLDEN CELEBRATION TO OPEN TOMORROW

REPUBLIC OPPOSES PERKINS PROGRAM FOR "STATUS QUO"

Maintaining Present Plant Operations During Mediation "Up to Labor"

First Effort at Crime
By Mr. Stillato Marks
Him Maker of Bombs

NEW YORK, June 18.—(U.P.)—John Stossie's first offense as a prizefighter ended today—no rout, no knockouts, two errors. Strillato, 31, a nondescript and unregarded, was accused of stealing a blanket from an automobile.

That was error No. 1 because the automobile happened to belong to Detective Thomas T. Mason.

Error No. 2 came when Strillato

ONE DEAD, DAMAGE
IS THOUSANDS DUE
TO FLOOD IN PERRY

Two Towns of Sunday Creek Valley Inundated to Depth of Four Feet

Trustees of Golden Celebration



FINDLAY TO MARK 50TH YEAR SINCE BOOM OF EIGHTIES

Program of High Quality Entertainment.

This is how the Republican-Courier heralded the 1937 opening of the Golden Celebration of Oil and Gas. The newspaper issued a large edition, containing 144 pages.

MINUTE PULPIT
BY THE PULPIT, NOV. 1911
THE PULPIT, NOV. 1911
THE PULPIT, NOV. 1911
THE PULPIT, NOV. 1911

The Republican-Courier

THE WEATHER
ST. C. W. BAKER
4000-11-11-11 and
weather. 11-11-11-11
and other with some
the 11-11-11-11

106TH YEAR

FINLAY, OHIO, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1941

PRICE THREE CENTS

JAPANESE BOMB HAWAII; VESSELS SUNK

Prestige, Honor Hurt So Japs Declare War

ANGLO-U. S. RIGHTS, COSTLY CAMPAIGN IN CHINA ANNOY JAPS

Claim U. S. Scheming To Extend European
Conflict But Still Seeks For
Pacific Stabilization

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Why did Japan declare war against us Sunday? Here in Tokyo's case against us to set forth in the memorandum which the Japanese ambassador handed to Secretary of State Hull Sunday afternoon.

We attempted to provide Japan with the most complete information possible in the past few days. We have been so busy in the past few days that we have not been able to do so.

The American government, however, has been so busy in the past few days that we have not been able to do so.

The American government, however, has been so busy in the past few days that we have not been able to do so.

TANK BATTLE TAKES LIBYAN FEATURE SPOT

Scrap Started at Noon
Saturday; Allies
Confident

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The bulk of Germany's remaining tank forces in Libya have been standing face to face in a pitched battle with British tanks since noon Saturday, probably the most serious tank battle of the desert war of armored armies, the British reported Sunday.

A communique from British general headquarters said the British tanks were in the hands of the British tanks. The British tanks were in the hands of the British tanks.

WAR BRINGS PEACE IN STRIKE THREAT

West Virginia Workers Had
Planned to Quit On
Tuesday

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Dec. 7.—(AP)—The American Federation of Labor, which has been in a strike against the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (U. B. C. J.), has been in a strike against the U. B. C. J. because of the way in which the U. B. C. J. has been in a strike against the U. B. C. J.

FDR To Broadcast
New Year Message
All these make sense—
Columbian Broadcasting System
—will carry President
Roosevelt's message to
Congress at 12:30 P. M. (EST)
Monday.

The American government, however, has been so busy in the past few days that we have not been able to do so.

THE JAPANESE BOMB HAWAII;
VESSELS SUNK

APPEAL TO REASON ENDS IN FAILURE



EMERSON HIRSHOFT, EGYPT K. R. S. S. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

The direct personal appeal of President Roosevelt to Emperor Hirohito, was answered Sunday by Japanese leaders dropped in the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Almost a century ago the President of the United States, James Monroe, said in his famous message to Congress:

MESSAGE TO EMPEROR OF JAPAN PUBLISHED

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350 ARE DEAD AS HONOLULU BARRACKS HIT

Pearl Harbor Base Blasted by Raider;
300 Wounded on Island;
Wake Is Seized

(BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)
Japanese warplanes made a deadly assault on Honolulu and Pearl Harbor Sunday, the foremost of a series of surprise attacks against American possessions throughout the Pacific.

Three hours later the Japanese government declared war on the United States and Great Britain.

Empire Strikes First

Soon a second wave of Japanese bombers roared over shocked Honolulu.

The Japanese aggression, which the United States officially and unequivocally described as treacherous and utterly unprovoked, bore two other U. S. ships at Pearl Harbor attacked.

Heavy damage to Honolulu residence districts where there were unaccountable casualties.

Torpedoing of a lumber-laden U. S. army transport between Hawaii and San Francisco.

Bombing of the Philippine Islands;

and bombing of Guam.

Seizure of International Settlement at Shanghai;

Capture of the U. S. gunboat Wake at Shanghai and destruction of the British gunboat Peterhead nearby.

There was little news of U. S. defensive actions, except the report that a number of the attacking planes at

This is how the Republican-Courier's first page looked the day after the Japanese attack on the United States Dec. 7, 1941.

TAFT CHALLENGES ROOSEVELT BEFORE 5,000 FINLAY PEOPLE

Demands That Predecessor Drop Generalities and Make Charges That President Is Backed by 'Interests' More Specific.

THROUGH STANDS HOURS IN PARK PLACE AWAITING HIM

Achievements of Administration Are Reviewed and 'Third Term Precedent' Condemned—Reception Committee Waits Long.

Challenging Colonel Roosevelt to make specific charges against the administration instead of generalities and demanding that he state specifically the reasons and special interests, William Howard Taft, president of the United States, stood for more than two hours awaiting his arrival at the Park Place Friday morning, the day after the Japanese attack on the United States. The reception committee was at the door of the small crowd of people who had gathered in the Park Place Friday morning, the day after the Japanese attack on the United States.

The Republican - Jeffersonian.

A Million Flashes, A Tremendous Crash, Five Unfortunate Human Beings are Instantly Hurlled Before Their Maker.

Many Are Injured, Two Dying a Few Hours Later; Some Hovering Between Life and Death, and Many Forever Disabled; Such Is the Result of Sunday Morning's Frightful Explosion.

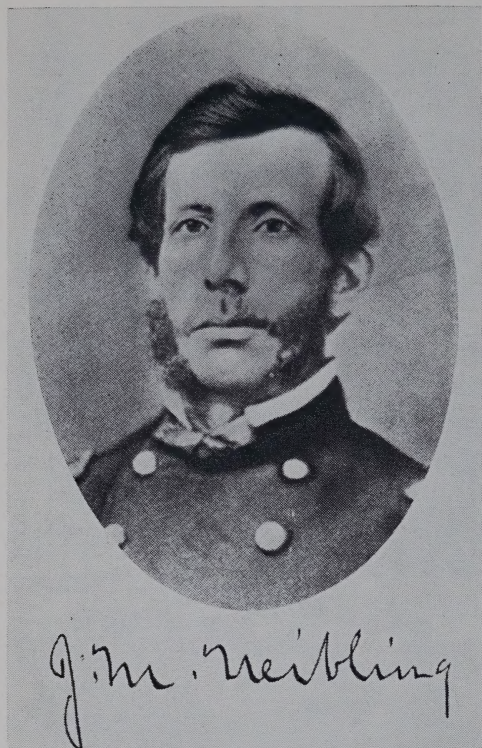
The Progress: Backlash of the Lake Shore Novelty Works Company at a Steamship Plant Is Shattered to Pieces—The Friends of the Unfortunate Are Weeping, the City Is Mournful—All the Result of Sunday Morning's Frightful Explosion.

LIST OF THE DEAD:
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.

THE INJURED:
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.
JAMES HARTSHORN, 38, 1111 Harrison St., 11:15 P. M.

The President of the United States—William Howard Taft—visited Findlay in May, 1912

Findlay's worst tragedy happened on a Sunday morning in May, 1904, when a novelty works explosion took place in southwestern Findlay. Seven lost their lives. This is how one of Findlay's newspapers told the story on its first page.



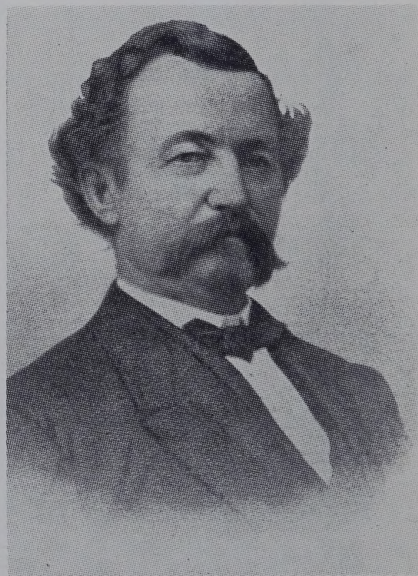
Col. J. M. Neibling was the commander of the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was recruited from Hancock and nearby counties for Civil war service. This was the first unit to leave for the front from the local community in 1861.



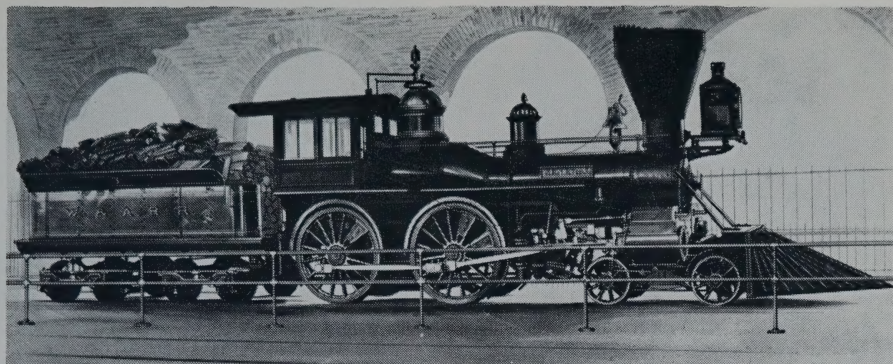
Here is a view of a portion of the war memorial in Maple Grove cemetery, honoring those who gave their lives in World War I, World War II and the Korean war. The community contributed funds for the memorial. There is a small cross for each individual who made the supreme sacrifice.



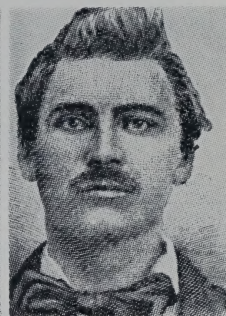
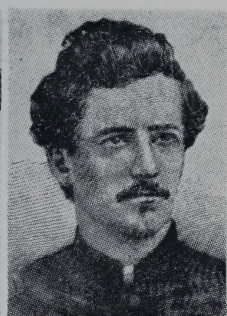
This is a view of the monument erected to the memory of Hancock county's soldiers in the Civil War. The monument stands in Maple Grove cemetery.



Col. William Mungen was the commander of the 57th regiment of infantry in the Civil war. This regiment was raised in Hancock and surrounding counties. Col. Mungen later became a member of Congress from this district.



Above is shown the "General", the locomotive which the famous Andrews raiders captured in Georgia in 1862.



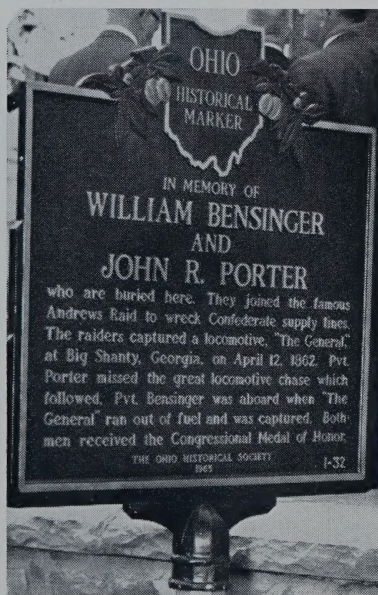
Wilson W. Brown

William Bensinger

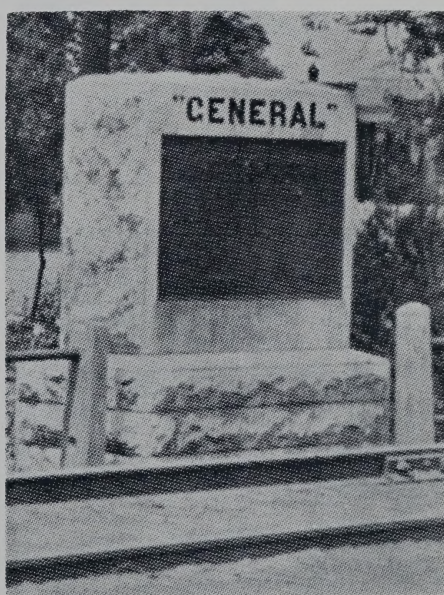
John Reed Porter

John W. Scott

These four Hancock county men participated in the famous Andrews raid.



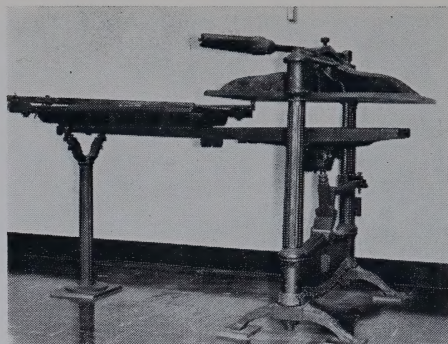
This marker stands in the Union Cemetery at McComb where two of the Andrews Raiders are buried. It was placed there by the Ohio Historical Society.



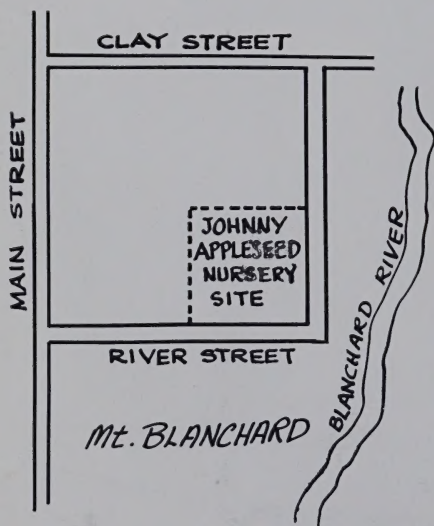
This monument has been erected at the site of the capture of the "General" in Big Shanty, Ga.



David R. Locke, in writing the famous "Petroleum V. Nasby" satirical letters while editor of the Findlay Jeffersonian, is credited with contributing greatly to the success of the northern cause.



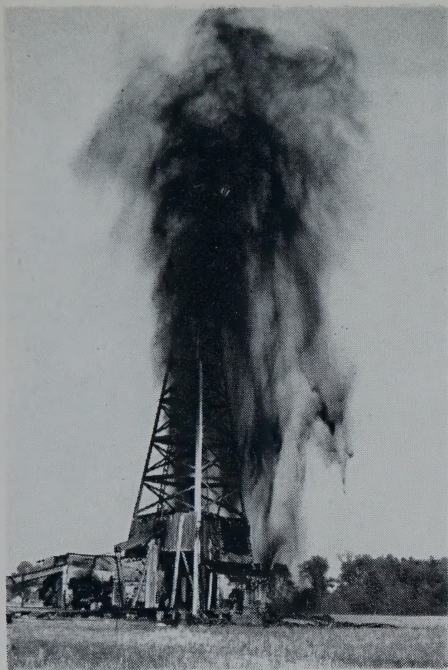
This was the press on which the newspaper containing the "Petroleum V. Nasby" Civil war letters was printed in Findlay. It now stands in the lobby of the Findlay Printing and Supply Company's printing plant, on West Sandusky street.



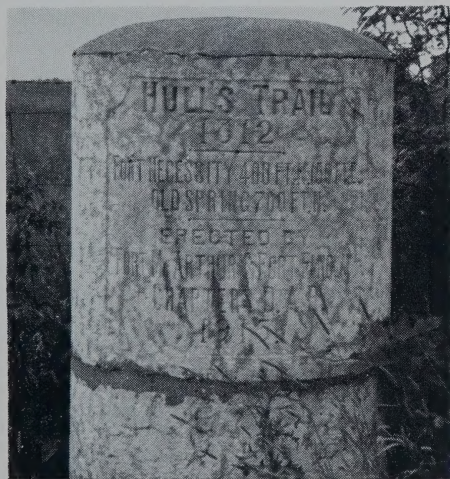
This map shows the exact location of the orchard plots owned and cultivated by Johnny Appleseed in Mt. Blanchard.



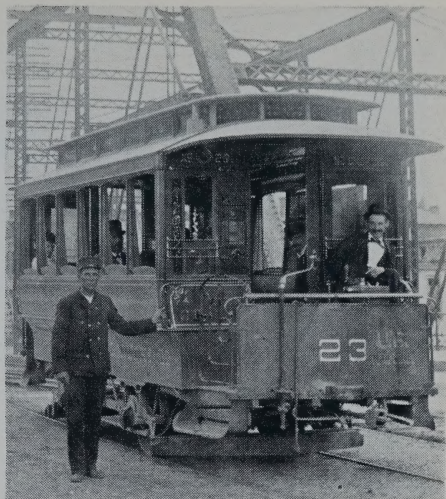
John Chapman, better known as the famous Johnny Appleseed, was a frequent visitor to Findlay and Hancock county in the 1830's. He owned land in Mt. Blanchard on which he once raised trees.



Here is shown an oil well "coming in". A nitro-glycerine charge has just produced the above result. The picture was taken in the days of the oil boom in Hancock county.



Above is shown the marker at the site of Fort Necessity on the Hancock-Hardin county line just a short distance west of U.S. highway No. 68. Here Col. James Findlay and his forces encamped just before moving on to the Blanchard river. The wet condition of the terrain made the encampment at Fort Necessity essential before the troops could push on north. The D.A.R. chapters of Findlay and Kenton joined to erect the marker in 1915.



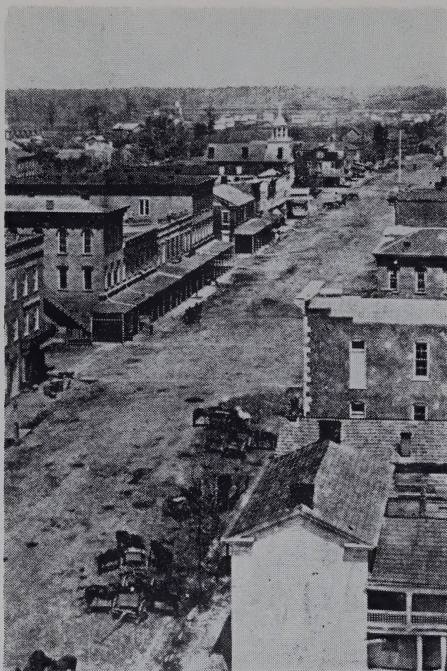
This was one of Findlay's city street cars when the trolley line was a part of the Main street scene. The picture was taken at the old Main street bridge.



Many Findlay streets have been named for pioneer leaders. Here are shown two of them which intersect. One was named for Dr. A. Hurd, a pioneer physician, and the other for A. and D. Joy, proprietors of the famous Joy House, a popular Findlay hotel for many years.



Many streets bear names of famous men. In Findlay, two streets adjoining each other are named for one prominent American leader, one thoroughfare bearing his first name and the next his second name. Winfield Scott was a famous general in the Mexican war and was the defeated Whig candidate for the U. S. presidency in 1852.



This is how Findlay's Main street looked approximately 100 years ago. The view is toward the north. The covered bridge over the Blanchard river can be observed in the distance.



Above is a view of Hancock county's first court house. It is now a dwelling and stands at 819 Park street. It originally stood at the southwest corner of South Main street and West Crawford street.



Findlay's great oil and gas boom of the late 1880's prompted a giant celebration which drew wide attention. Here is a view of Main street, gaily bedecked for the event.



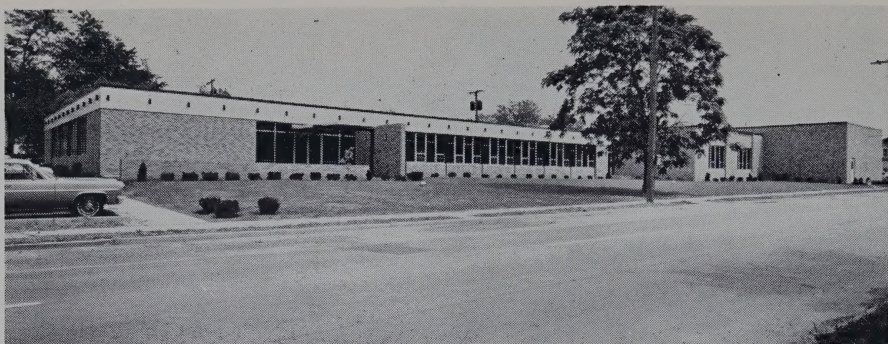
Findlay is the home of the general offices of Marathon Oil Company, one of the world's leading petroleum concerns. A view of a portion of the company's offices in Findlay is shown here.



The new Blanchard Valley Hospital, shown here, was completed in 1958.



Above is a view of one of the interchanges on one of the two new four-lane highways now spanning Hancock county.



This is the new Research and Engineering Center of the Cooper Tire and Rubber company.



Here is shown a view of the Findlay plant of the Radio Corporation of America, Inc.



Above is view of the processing laboratory of Eastman Kodak company.



This is a picture of the Findlay unit of the Dow Chemical company.

Central Union into Findlay, Findlay has been linked with this nationwide system.

Long distance service to Lima started in 1889. Connections to other cities followed shortly, the oil and gas boom developing quite a volume of business for the telephone company.

An independent telephone company entered the field around the turn of the century, known as the Ohio State Telephone company and also as the Home Telephone company. Dual telephone service continued into the 1920's, when Central Union took over the smaller concern and unified the service.

The old Central Union exchange was long located in the Jones block, with offices on West Crawford street, adjoining the former Western Union offices. In 1917, a new exchange building was built in the 600 block on South Main street. The Ohio State Telephone company maintained its exchange in what is now the Masonic Temple on Broadway.

The American Telephone and Telegraph company built a building on West Hardin street, after World War I and the telephone company exchange is now located here, having been moved from the Main street building when dial service was inaugurated in Findlay late in the 1950's. The other building is now used as a district telephone company headquarters.

The General Telephone company now owns and operates telephone lines in portions of Hancock county outside of Findlay.

IV

THE HISTORY of the use of gas—natural and artificial—as a fuel and for illumination purposes in Findlay is an exceedingly interesting one.

Of the four public utilities now affecting practically every home in the community now, gas has the longest history, locally. Water, of course, has always been used, but it did not take on the form of a public utility until quite a time after the gas business had been developed here.

The first direct use of gas that history records was in 1838, when Daniel Foster put down a well on property now occupied by the Marathon Oil Company at South Main and Hardin streets, and struck gas at eight feet. He put an inverted kettle over the well and the gas that collected beneath it was conveyed by means of a wooden pipe to the fireplace in his home nearby where it was burned from the muzzle of an old gun. The home on this property was still using the gas when the oil and gas boom came a half century later.

This had not been the first discovery of gas in the area. In the autumn of 1836, or two years earlier, Richard Wade, one of the early settlers of Jackson Township, southeast of Findlay, found gas while digging a well on his farm. He conveyed the gas through a wooden box to the end of which he attached a piece of iron tubing. He would light it to exhibit the phenomenon to visitors.

As the little Findlay community grew from its primitive days of the 1830's and 1840's, artificial gas began to be utilized in nearby communities

as a fuel and for illumination and some parties obtained a franchise from the village council Aug. 15, 1858 for the construction and operation of such a plant here. The franchise, however, was never exercised and lapsed.

In July, 1871, the Findlay Gas, Light company was organized to furnish gas to the town, then under 5,000 population. This company's franchise, granted by council, lapsed also, without action. However, Aug. 26, 1874, a new ordinance was enacted by council permitting the company to erect an artificial gas plant here. The plant was constructed and placed in operation the day before Christmas 1874.

Operation of the artificial plant continued until 1885 at which time the manufacture of artificial gas was discontinued and natural gas substituted. The famous Oesterlen well had come in and drilling for gas was in progress on a broad scale in the surrounding area. The Oesterlen well had been drilled by the Findlay Natural Gas company which had been organized by a number of prominent Findlay citizens in 1884. The new company, upon discovering natural gas, decided to enter the distribution field, also, and put down mains in the city — the second set to go below the town's streets. After a period of spirited competition, the two companies came together, the Natural Gas company selling out to the artificial concern for \$33,300, on Sept. 1, 1885.

The schedule of rates charged for gas were as follows:

For cooking stoves, \$1.00 per month.

For heating stoves \$1.50 per month.

For house lights, \$0.15 to \$0.30 per month.

For grates, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per month.

For boilers, from \$150.00 upward per year.

For lime kilns, \$100.00 per year.

Among the wells which furnished the gas was the famous Karg well, located on the south bank of the Blanchard river at the foot of Liberty street. This was the well which "set off" Findlay's big boom. It was a giant and produced gas in a volume that attracted world-wide attention.

It was in Findlay that natural gas was first successfully utilized in the industrial trades in northwestern Ohio. The boom brought many plants here, the city's offer of free gas to manufacturing concerns proving a great magnet.

The city of Findlay was engaged in the business of supplying the municipality with gas for fuel and illumination for a few years in the late 1880's, first as a competitor to a privately-owned public utility and then as the single facility in the field.

After the merger of the Findlay Artificial Gas Light company and the Findlay Natural Gas company in 1885, a cry went up in the city against the firm having a monopoly on the business.

The movement for entrance of the city into the gas business increased and finally Henry Byal, Hancock county's representative in the state legislature, introduced a bill permitting Findlay to establish municipal ownership of wells and gas mains. The measure was passed, permitting Findlay to hold a special election in April, 1886 for the purpose of acting on a \$60,000 bond

issue to finance the project. The voters gave their approval and council moved at once to proceed.

A board of gas trustees was named and the city began to drill for gas and lay its own mains. There were already two sets of mains in the city's streets, both the Artificial company and the Natural Gas company having previously put down their own transmission lines.

The city was successful in putting down wells which furnished enough gas for its customers. The city cut the rates charged by the Artificial company in half. This of course brought on a spirited rate war between the city and the Artificial company, which went to court to try to enjoin the city from continuing in the gas business. The courts, however, refused to grant an injunction.

The final result was the purchase by the city of its competitor. For a price of \$75,000, the private concern sold its business to the city Oct. 10, 1887. This left the municipality alone in the field.

However, the city soon decided to get out of the gas business and on March 29, 1889, disposed of its gas interests to a newly formed company, the Citizens' Gas Light and Heating company. In a little over a year, this company sold its business to another firm, the Citizens' Gas Light and Coke company, the date of the transaction being July 30, 1890. Incorporators of this latter firm were John M. Barr, D. T. Davis, M. D. Hosler, William V. Coons and J. Frank Axline.

This company continued to operate the gas business, locally, until its interests were merged with the Logan Gas company in 1922. The charter of the Citizens' Gas Light and Coke company was surrendered and the company dissolved April 10, 1923.

The Logan company later was merged into the Ohio Fuel Gas company, which later became known as the Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. It is a part of the vast Columbia system.

The gas business thus has a most interesting background and history in the community. It came through a period in the city's annals that for excitement and glamor had no parallel.

Few cities in the country could boast of three sets of gas mains in its streets at one time.

Some of these old mains are still under the streets of Findlay. Other public utility firms and the city's waterworks forces sometimes find them when they are working with their own transmission lines under the streets. The waterworks department has opened some of them and finds there are still small quantities of gas in the lines which soon escapes.

V

ELECTRICITY CAME TO FINDLAY in the late 1880's. It was an interesting co-incidence that this new means of illumination was developed just about the same time that another new means of lighting—natural gas—was in its infancy, too, here.

In 1887, the Findlay Electric Light company was formed to promote the use of electricity in the community. In 1891, another Findlay utility, the Findlay Street Railway company established a power plant and began the business of supplying electric power, locally.

The Hancock Light and Power company came into being in 1892 through a combination of the two other concerns. Findlay's streets were illuminated with 100 street lights, which replaced natural gas, which went into use for street illumination in at least the central part of the city when the new gas wells came in.

The Putnam street power plant was constructed and continued in use until only a few years ago. The Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction company came into being in the early days of electricity and became the owner of the local electric business. In the early 1930's, its business was transferred to the Central Ohio Light and Power company, which a few years ago was acquired by the Ohio Power company.

The electrification of rural Hancock county took place in the 1930's when the United States government underwrote the construction of electric lines throughout non-urban areas. The Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative was organized to supply rural electric service.

The local electric utility owned one of several street car systems which operated in Findlay at one time, developing at the time of the oil and gas boom. The electric company had the franchise for Main street and other firms operated street cars—all mule drawn—on the side streets. T. Carnahan, Dr. William A. Byal and J. C. Laney were the owners of other lines, which operated on Blanchard avenue, Lima avenue, West Main Cross street, Defiance avenue and other arteries of the booming town.

Historical records reveal that some 500 mules were employed in the street car service in Findlay at one time. The oil and gas boom expanded the city's area to such an extent that transportation was essential. This was before the days of any private transportation, except bicycles and the horse and buggy, of course.

The Findlay Electric company in 1891 abandoned its mule service and substituted electric cars. The other lines disappeared after a few years.

Few small cities in Ohio had electric street cars when Findlay obtained them some 75 years ago. They continued to serve the community until 1932, when the automobile took its toll of the local service and the three interurban lines which operated out of Findlay.

VI

THE CITY OF FINDLAY went into the water business in 1888. The oil and gas boom brought a great need of more water and the municipality built a waterworks in that year on the Blanchard river on a site which is now part of Riverside park.

Water mains were constructed throughout the city and water turned into them from the new waterworks in 1889. Up until that time water for

extinguishing fires was available from cisterns which had been built over the city.

The water came from the river. In homes, most people used water from wells which were drilled on their premises, since the water from the river flowing through the mains was not treated for drinking purposes.

Around 1904, the city decided to pipe water here from Limestone Ridge nine miles east of Findlay, after examination showed that it had a fine quality. The water came from springs.

With the advent of this water, people abandoned their wells and enjoyed the luxury of drinking water from their faucets.

In 1929, a new municipal water works was constructed on North Blanchard street, and it has been expanded since because of the growth of the city and the increased need for water.

A large reservoir was built not long after World War II east of the city to insure an ample supply of water for the city. Water is taken from the river to keep the reservoir filled.

The city still owns and operates the waterworks system.

Chapter 8

Hancock County in the Nation's Wars

I

WITH ITS ORIGIN going back to a military establishment, which was a part of American defense of the national interests in an early conflict—the war of 1812—the community of Findlay and Hancock county has always responded loyally and patriotically to every call of the country in time of war.

The record of participation in the various armed conflicts in which the nation has been engaged is one of which every citizen can well be genuinely proud. Manpower, money and the other essentials in such emergencies have always been generously forthcoming at all times.

Hancock county had been organized only 18 years when the Mexican war broke out in 1846. A call for troops went out from Washington when a force of American cavalry was attacked by Mexicans on the east side of the Rio Grande river in April 1846, and this constituted the first bloodshed of the war. Hancock county then was very thinly settled and when the call for troops reached this portion of Ohio the quota for the state was already full. A company, however, was recruited from Hancock and Putnam counties and offered to the governor, who replied that their services were not needed, under the circumstances. However, a dozen or more from this county left to enter the military service in other companies. Among them were James M. Neibling, Allen Royce, Jeremiah Yates, and Loami Farmer. Dr. William D. Carlin, a son of Squire Carlin, one of Hancock county's first settlers, was commissioned as assistant surgeon in the 15th U. S. infantry in April, 1847 and served with the forces. He died in 1862, while serving with the army in the Civil war.

II

WHEN THE CIVIL WAR STARTED in April, 1861, Findlay and Hancock county at once responded. Fort Sumter fell on April 13, President Lincoln issued a call for volunteers within 48 hours and soon flags and other manifestations of loyalty and patriotic fervor appeared in Findlay.

A public rally was held on April 18 at the Court House and a call for volunteers was made. Seventy-two responded immediately. Addresses were made by leading citizens and the support of the community pledged to the northern cause. A resolution was adopted to this effect.

The new recruits were taken in charge by James M. Neibling, a prominent Findlay citizen who had served as a youth in the Mexican war and who had recently been Sheriff of Hancock county. Within a few days, three companies of volunteers had been raised in Hancock county. They were later mustered in as companies A, F and G of the 21st Ohio regiment, which was commanded by Col. Neibling.

The volunteers made camp first at the county fair grounds, then located at the northeast corner of Blanchard avenue and South Blanchard street. The camp was named in honor of Col. Neibling.

Another mass meeting was held by the citizenry at the Court House and steps taken to effect a county-wide military organization for war purposes.

Funds were raised to help the families of the volunteers. Some \$4,000 was soon in hand and more was subscribed later. A volunteer relief committee was named.

The three companies at Camp Neibling were notified to prepare for active duty and went to Cleveland and then to southern Ohio. They engaged in battle in western Virginia but their war experience at this time proved very limited. The enlistment had only been for a period of three months and the companies returned home in August. They had lost but two men.

It had originally been thought that the war would only last a very brief time and for this reason enlistments were for only three months.

Immediately upon the return of the three units, recruitment of volunteers for a longer period started. Most of the men re-enlisted. A military depot known as "Camp Vance" was established along the Blanchard river just east of Findlay. This camp was named in honor of Wilson Vance who had been instrumental in starting the Findlay settlement early in the 1820's after his brother Joseph Vance, of Urbana and later governor of Ohio, had bought the land from the government.

Here the 21st regiment was reorganized and mustered in for three years' service Sept. 18, 1861. Col. Neibling retained his rank as commander. Four companies were raised from Hancock county. Other companies came from surrounding counties.

The regiment left Findlay for Camp Dennison in eastern Ohio Sept. 26 and was supplied with arms there. Early in October, the regiment moved into Kentucky. Its first engagement was at Ivy mountain in that state. The regiment served through the war and earned the title "The Fighting Twenty-First."

Findlay and Hancock county men also served in other units in the war. Recruiting for another regiment started as the 21st was getting ready to leave. This became the 57th regiment and was commanded by Col. William Mungen, a Findlay attorney, who later was to go to Congress. The 57th regiment, too, was organized at Camp Vance. There were three companies

from Hancock county. The regiment left Findlay Jan. 22, 1862 for Camp Chase at Columbus and became part of the Army of Tennessee.

The 57th fought in many engagements. Both the 21st and 57th regiments participated in the grand review of union troops at Washington May 26, 1865.

Findlay and Hancock county men served in other units in the war. In some instances, a company of Hancock county men was raised to become part of a regiment of Ohio men.

In addition to Col. Neibling and Col. Mungen, other Findlay men also commanded regiments in the war. Col. James A. Bope commanded the combined 50th and 99th regiments, while Col. Albert Langworthy was the commander of the 99th regiment until its consolidation with the 50th regiment. Col. Moses Walker was in command of the 31st regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Samuel F. Gray and Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin S. Porter were high in command posts in their regiments, also.

Early in 1862, a call went out for an emergency force to rush to Cincinnati to forestall a southern raid upon Ohio after Confederate troops had taken Lexington, Ky. A number of Hancock county men responded to the appeal, but the attack did not materialize. The troops which participated in this action became known as "Squirrel Hunters" because they were asked to bring any type of arms they possessed.

It was necessary to resort to the draft to obtain enough soldiers for the Union cause and some Hancock county men entered the service through this channel. A draft machinery was set up on a congressional district basis by Congress.

Altogether approximately 3,000 men from Hancock county served in the Civil war. Of these around 500 never returned, having given their lives for the Union cause.

III

FOUR UNION SOLDIERS from Hancock county participated in a daring adventure which won them eternal distinction for their courageous exploit during the Civil war.

They were members of the famous Andrews raid party which penetrated the southern lines into northern Georgia where a Confederate locomotive and train were seized. Their thrilling trip forms one of the most exciting stories of the entire war. It has been the theme of a number of books and became a Walt Disney movie under the title "The Great Locomotive Chase."

The four from Hancock county, all members of the 21st Regiment, which was recruited in this area, were:

John Scott, Company K; John Reed Porter, Company C; Wilson W. Brown, Company F, and William Bensinger, Company G.

All the members of the party were captured after they had been forced to abandon their train in a hot pursuit. Eight of the group were executed, eight others managed to escape and six were exchanged.

Scott was among those executed. Porter and Wilson escaped from prison and Bensinger was exchanged.

Hancock county furnished more men than any other Ohio county. Two of the 22 in the party were civilians, including the leader J. J. Andrews, of Kentucky.

The group, proceeding south separately or in small groups, assembled at Big Shanty, Georgia, April 12, 1862, and when the southern crew of a northbound train went into an eating establishment for breakfast, the northerners seized the train and headed north, in an effort to break an important transportation connection to hinder Confederate traffic by destroying bridges and track between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The southerners started after their stolen train and finally forced the northern crew to abandon it.

All of the northerners received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery, being the first to become the recipients of this high distinction in the country's history.

Scott is buried in the national cemetery at Chattanooga, Porter and Bensinger are buried in the Union cemetery in McComb and Brown is buried near Dowling, in Wood county.

Relatives of a number of the members of the famous Andrews raid reside in Findlay and Hancock county. Some of the relatives have interesting and valuable records which have come down from members of the raiding party.

In the state library at Columbus is a manuscript written by one of the raiders, describing their experiences.

A monument was erected in the national cemetery at Chattanooga, Tenn., by the state of Ohio to honor the raiders. It was erected at the scene of the graves of the eight members of the party who were executed. A replica of the locomotive known as "The General" stands on top of the monument.

A monument also stands at the scene of the seizure of the locomotive in Big Shanty, Georgia. A plaque tells of the capture of the engine and the chase that followed.

IV

FINDLAY GAINED DISTINCTION in the Civil war as the home of the newspaper in which the famous Nasby letters appeared, ridiculing the position of the south. The author, David Ross Locke, was the editor of the Weekly Jeffersonian.

In a speech at Cooper Union, New York city, at the close of the Civil war, George S. Boutwell, secretary of the treasury, under President Lincoln, said that the crushing of the rebellion could be credited to three forces, the Army, the Navy and the Nasby letters.

Mr. Locke had come to Findlay from Bucyrus only a short time before the war started. He was a native of New York state.

The Jeffersonian at that time was located in what is known as the Headquarters block, at the northeast corner of South Main street and East Main Cross street.

The first Nasby letter appeared March 21, 1861. Locke wrote all of his famous letters under the name of "Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby". Oil had just been discovered in the Pennsylvania area and he liked the sound of the middle name. The last name came from a 17th century battle in England.

It is said that Locke never reduced the letters to writing before going to the type case to "set" them. He set type as his thoughts came to him.

A copy of the Nasby letters, with the edges slightly burned is in the Congressional library in the Lincoln collection. A memorandum attached to the book which had belonged to Lincoln says the edges became burned because Lincoln held them too close to a lamp while he read them in bed.

In 1865, Locke left Findlay to go to Toledo where he bought the Blade. He also became a platform lecturer of note. He died in 1888 in Toledo at the age of 54.

V

HANCOCK COUNTY was represented in the Spanish-American war by Company A, second Ohio volunteer infantry, a national guard unit based in Findlay, as well as by a number of men who enlisted in other military organizations.

When the war with Spain developed over the Cuban issue in 1898, Company A was called out, together with the remainder of the Ohio National Guard. The unit was mustered into the federal service in May, 1898 at Columbus and left for the south. However, the company never got to Cuba, but remained in the south until it was mustered out at Macon, Ga. in February, 1899.

Tillman L. Lafferty was the captain of the company, which consisted of 105 officers, non-commissioned officers and privates.

VI

WORLD WAR I, which found the United States a participant in April, 1917, saw Findlay and Hancock county again responding to the nation's call patriotically.

Findlay's Ohio National Guard unit—Company A of the Second Regiment—was summoned into federal service in World War I soon after war was declared and served with distinction in Belgium and on other fronts, as a part of the Buckeye state's 37th Division.

Previous to the departure of the Findlay guardsmen for World War I duty, Ohio created a special division of members of the guard known as the Rainbow division, calling upon each guard unit to send some of its men to make up the outfit. Findlay's guard company contributed to their number.

The community also contributed other manpower within a few weeks after the United States entered the war. An officers' training camp was established at Fort Benjamin Harrison at Indianapolis, Ind., and a number of local men were accepted as candidates for commissions. At the end of a three months' training period, they were graduated as officers.

Congress decreed that manpower should be drafted for the war and the first registration was held June 5, 1917. All men between 21 and 31 were required to register. It resulted in an enrollment of 2,811 men of those ages.

A draft board was named for the county. Governor James M. Cox asked Common Pleas Judge William F. Duncan to name a board and he appointed the following: O. P. Shaw, a veteran of the Civil war, Charles F. Coe, a veteran of the Spanish-American war; and Dr. J. P. Baker, well known Findlay physician. Mr. Shaw served as chairman, Mr. Coe as recorder and Dr. Baker as examining physician. Offices were established on the third floor of the municipal building.

Monthly quotas were assigned the county and the first group left Findlay in September for Camp Sherman, which had been established at Chillicothe, O. Each month thereafter until the fall of 1918, contingents departed for Camp Sherman, with the exception of the July 1918 group which went to Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

Additional registrations were conducted as follows: June 5, 1918, for all who had become 21 years old following the first registration, 254 registering under this provision; Aug. 24, 1918, for all becoming 21 after June 5, 1918, a total of 65 qualifying then; and on Sept. 12, 1918, for all males between 18 and 45 years old, who had not been registered under the previous orders. This brought the complete enrollment to 4,330.

The board examined a total of 2,656 for military service before the war ended Nov. 11, 1918.

A district board of appeals was created for Northwestern Ohio, with headquarters in the Hancock county Court House. Charles A. Blackford, Findlay attorney, was one of the members of this board. Claims for deferment on various grounds were heard by the board on appeal from the local draft boards. A total of 27,263 claims were filed before the board. Of these 14,084 were granted and 13,179 refused.

Guy C. McCullough was the first clerk of the district board and he was followed by W. Roy Ulrich and then by Miss Ruth Pocka.

The other members of the board besides Mr. Blackford were Judge Frank Baldwin, of Bowling Green, C. A. Benedict, Toledo, Emmett R. Curtain, Lima, W. W. Farnsworth, Waterville and Dr. A. Rhu, Marion. Judge Baldwin was chairman and was succeeded by Mr. Blackford.

Hancock county responded liberally to the country's appeal for war funds. Loan campaigns were conducted every four or five months, with successful results. They were known as Liberty loan drives.

The Red Cross was exceedingly active in the war effort. The Elks' home on South Main street had just been completed a few years previously and the fraternal order turned over the structure to the Red Cross chapter which established its headquarters there for the duration of the conflict. Many Findlay and Hancock county women were engaged in Red Cross work at the time.

THE ENTRY of the United States into World War II Dec. 7, 1941 saw the community respond loyally and patriotically again to the country's call.

National defense had occupied the nation's attention for a few years prior to the action of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines in launching the attack against the United States which resulted in the war of nearly four years' duration.

In October, 1940, National Guardsmen from Ohio including the local unit were ordered into camp for training for at least a year, at Camp Shelby, Miss. This period was extended and the guard was still in training when Pearl Harbor and the Philippines were attacked. The Ohio Guard was assigned to the Pacific theater and served with distinction throughout the war.

As an integral part of the national defense program, the Congress instituted a new system of selective service, making military service compulsory on the part of young men. In 1940, Governor John W. Bricker and other governors were authorized by the federal government to appoint selective service boards in each county to register the youth and set up the machinery to send them into the armed forces for training on a systematic basis.

The pattern which was developed to organize the selective service boards was about the same in each county. The governor, in most counties, requested the common pleas judge (the presiding judge in counties where there was more than one judge) the probate judge and the editor or publisher of the daily newspaper to constitute an appointing board to name the personnel of the selective service boards. The board in Hancock county for the purposes of appointment thus became Chester Pendleton, then Common Pleas Judge, Paul R. Capell, then Probate Judge and R. L. Heminger, who at that time was associate editor of the Republican-Courier.

The appointing board chose the following two boards, one of which served for the city of Findlay and the other for Hancock county, outside of the city:

Findlay—Richard R. Groves, Joseph V. Patterson, Francis J. Collingwood, Guy C. McCullough and Don T. Decker.

Hancock county—Tola Shively, of McComb, Robert Davenport, of Mt. Blanchard, Christian Hilty, Orange township, Alvin Dove, of Van Buren and C. B. Shuman, of Fostoria.

The Findlay board organized by naming Col. Groves as chairman and Mr. Collingwood as secretary. The county board named Mr. Davenport chairman and Mr. Dove as secretary. The Findlay board named Leo P. Howard as clerk, while the county board selected Miss Goldie Wilch as its clerk.

Registrants advisory boards were named as follows:

Findlay: Dr. E. B. Brokaw, R. B. Child, Homer R. Dunathan, John E. Priddy and the Rev. M. J. Smith.

County: H. I. Dally, Arlington, Harry Eatherton, Van Buren, John C. Kieffer, Arcadia; C. J. Orwick, McComb, and A. Pifer, Orange township.

Reed B. Dunn was named government appeal agent for the Findlay

board and Ray C. Ascham for the county.

The first registration was set for Oct. 16, 1940 for men between 21 and 35 years of age. A total of 4,729 registered on this date, in the city and county.

Subsequent registrations were as follows:

Second, July 1, for those turned 21 after Oct. 16, 1940.

Third, Feb. 16, 1942, for ages 20 and 21 and 37 to 44 inclusive.

Fourth, April 27, 1942, for ages 45 to 64 inclusive.

Fifth, June 30, 1942, ages 18 to 20 inclusive.

Sixth, Dec. 11 to Dec. 31, 1942, age 18. (Those reaching 18 thereafter through March 31, 1947, required to register as they attained 18.)

The first registrants left Findlay Nov. 22, 1940 with three going from each board. They were assigned to the U. S. armored division at Fort Knox, Ky.

The second quotas left in January, 1941 when monthly calls began. From then until the coming of the war Dec. 7, 1941, quotas were not large. However with the outbreak of hostilities on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 1941, both city and county boards began to receive heavy quotas and men began to leave the community in large numbers for the training camps.

A total of 14,059 men registered between the time the boards were created in 1940 and the date the boards were discharged April 1, 1947. Induction of men stopped in September, 1946.

The two boards sent a total of 4,513 men into the armed forces during the period of their existence.

The city board saw one change during the war. Col. Groves resigned Jan. 20, 1943, because the government ruled that he could no longer serve since he held an inactive commission in the U. S. Army. Chester P. Smith was named to succeed him on the selective service board on June 25, 1943. Mr. Decker was named chairman of the board to succeed Col. Groves.

C. H. Hilty resigned as a member of the county board in October, 1942. He was succeeded by Floyd W. Bish, of Rural route No. 5, Findlay in April, 1943. Mr. Shuman resigned in June, 1945 and was followed by Oliver O. Haver, of Fostoria.

Miss Wilch served throughout the entire period as clerk of the county board. Mr. Howard was succeeded by Mrs. Estella (Seguine) Lab Feb. 1, 1944. She had been on the clerical staff from the start of the selective service.

O. D. Donnell, of Findlay, was named to serve on a committee in the state to advise on occupational deferments. Dr. Frank M. Wiseley was chairman of a district medical advisory board in connection with the selective service. Dr. H. O. Crosby was a member of this board, which had its headquarters in Marion.

All members of the selective service boards and other agencies served without pay.

The boards wound up their service April 1, 1947. They closed their records at that time and made a final report on their activities.

World War II saw women in the armed services for the first time in the country's history. A substantial number of Findlay young women enlisted for such service. They were not subject to selective service.

The war witnessed an active bond selling campaign in the community. At the outset, the bond movement was under the direction of Francis K. Godwin and later when a county-wide organization was developed, John R. Donnell became chairman. Clarence T. Jackson, of Findlay, served as a full-time bond representative for this area.

For the sale of bonds and for the other solicitations which became necessary during the war, a permanent organization of leaders and workers was set up, which served throughout the conflict, going into action a half dozen or so times a year, under the same leadership. In addition to bond sales, the same organization served in raising funds for the Red Cross, local youth agencies, USO (United Service Organization), and other causes. It was a unique idea, worked out locally and proved highly successful.

Rationing was a feature of World War II that was entirely new in connection with a war effort. Scarcities of essentials in various fields made a rationing program necessary throughout the country. A war rationing board was set up for each county. The headquarters for the board here were in the basement of the Court House.

Gasoline, meat, shoes and other articles were on the rationing list. Ration coupons were issued by the rationing board. Committees were set up to administer the program.

Wages of workers in Findlay and over the entire country were "frozen," under federal laws. Increases were permitted only under strict regulations, which greatly limited any such steps.

The Hancock county Red Cross chapter rendered signal service throughout the war. Through its various committees and units, the Red Cross contributed much to the war effort, locally. Many were enrolled in its activities.

With the national guard gone, a home guard organization was recruited and was prepared for emergency duty during the period of the war on the home front.

When the war with Japan ended in August, 1945, the conflict with Germany having closed a few months earlier, the community joined in a two-day celebration of the successful close of the struggle. For two days, business suspended in the city and citizens united in giving thanks for the victorious ending of the war.

A movement for a memorial for the community's war dead began not long after the war's close. A campaign for funds produced a substantial amount and appropriate markers were placed in a plot in Maple Grove cemetery, honoring the war dead of both the world wars. Each man who made the supreme sacrifice has an individual cross. Later Korean war dead were similarly honored.

The Civil war memorial which stood for many years on the Court House lawn was moved to the same plot and stands alongside the markers for the dead of the two world wars.

In 1935, when the new bridge was erected over the Blanchard river on Main street in Findlay, the structure was dedicated to all men and women who served their country in time of war.

VIII

IN 1948, Congress authorized the establishment of a new selective service system as part of the national defense program.

Under this program, Hancock county was instructed to create a new draft board of three individuals to serve the entire county. The same recommending committee which had served in World War II was authorized to nominate members for the board. The names of Tell Thompson, O. L. Alward and Bert Klentsche were suggested and they were appointed.

A registration of all young men between the ages of 18 and 25 was held over the entire country. Subsequently every young man who became 18 was required to go to the board's offices and register on his birthday.

The local board began to receive comparatively small quotas of men to be sent to training camps.

When the Korean conflict broke out in June, 1950, the board was called upon to furnish much larger quotas.

With the end of the Korean war, quotas of the local selective service board returned to smaller size again. The board continues to serve with offices in the postoffice in Findlay, in charge of Miss Goldie Wilch as clerk.

In 1949, Mr. Klentsche resigned as a board member to become a candidate for mayor and Leo Friend was appointed in his place. In 1964, Mr. Thompson resigned and Forest Lauck was named to succeed him.

The members of the recommending committee under the selective service have changed somewhat through the years. R. L. Heminger has continued as a member from the time the system began in 1940. However, Judge Paul R. Capell was succeeded in 1948 by Judge Joe M. Moorhead, who had become probate judge. In 1953, Judge Paul D. Beach became a member of the committee, having become probate judge when Judge Moorhead went on the common pleas bench, succeeding Judge Pendleton. In 1964, Judge Moorhead resigned and the committee today (1965) consists of Judge Margaretta Schuck, now probate judge, and R. L. Heminger.

Soon after the outbreak of the Korean war, the Ohio National Guard, including the Findlay company, was again called into service, together with guardsmen from several more states and again served the nation in conflict.

Findlay's Ohio National Guard unit — Company C, First Brigade, 148th infantry — is an active military organization, which is headquartered in the armory on East Crawford street.

Col. G. Fred Graf, of Findlay, who was the commander of the 148th infantry is now assistant commander of the 37th division of Ohio. He is Findlay's postmaster.

Chapter 9

Political History of Hancock County

I

THE POLITICAL HISTORY of Findlay and Hancock county is exceedingly interesting. Fortunately records have been preserved for much of the time from the community's early days dealing with the elections and voting trends and political happenings of the various periods during the span of nearly a century and a half between now and the community's establishment in the 1820's.

There are definite patterns through the years and they are readily discernible. There have been long periods when one party was dominant, then subsequent times when the political complexion changed. There have been elections that stirred unusual interest. There have been some exceedingly close and spirited races. There have been election contests in the courts. Not only the matter of choosing public officials, but issues of one kind and another have challenged the voters' interest and attention over the years.

The community has furnished the state and nation with some distinguished public figures who have held high office. The community has entertained presidents of the United States, past chief executives of the country and those who wanted to become president at different times.

The first election machinery in the county's history took form in 1823 when the initial casting of votes was held. It was an election for officers of the new Findlay township which was created May 28, 1823. The township included all of the present county and still was a part of Wood county. (It was not until 1828 that Hancock county became a separate county). Until the new Findlay township was created, all of the Wood county area was one big township, known as Waynesfield.

The Findlay township election was held July 1, 1823 at the home of Wilson Vance, who had laid out the town only shortly before that. Thirteen votes were cast in this first election. Robert McKinnis and Wilson Vance

were elected Justices of the Peace, the only offices that were to be filled. Job Chamberlain, Sr., William Moreland and Benjamin Chandler were the judges of the election and Wilson Vance and Matthew Reighly clerks.

A second township election took place April 5, 1824 when 18 votes were cast, five more than in the first election. Some additional public officials were chosen at this time. Those elected were: Job Chamberlain, Sr., Wilson Vance and Jacob Poe, Trustees; Matthew Reighly, Sr., Clerk; Job Chamberlain, Sr., Treasurer; Wilson Vance, Lister, (or Assessor); Philip McKinnis, Constable; John Hunter and John Gardner, Fence Viewers, and Robert McKinnis and William Moreland, Overseers of the Poor.

The first county election for public officials for the new county — a law passed Jan. 21, 1828 had created Hancock county — was conducted April 7, 1828. A total of 74 electors voted in this first county election.

The first officials elected were: Godfrey Wolford, John Long and John P. Hamilton, Commissioners; Don Alonzo Hamlin, Sheriff; Matthew Reighly, Auditor; Joshua Hedges, Treasurer; Thomas Slight, Coroner; William Hackney, Assessor.

These officials served until the succeeding general election, held Oct. 14, 1828.

"There was no great strife for the offices in those days", remarks the R. C. Brown History of Hancock county, (1886), "as the remuneration was so very small that few cared to spend their time in such a poor paying business."

II

IN THE FIRST ELECTION in the township and in the county, political parties did not play much part. It was not long, however, before lines began to be drawn and party affiliations began to evidence themselves. The record shows that it was the Democratic party which held the dominant position, with hardly a break in presidential and governorship balloting for many years. In fact the county voted for every Democratic nominee for the presidency from 1828 until 1888, when Benjamin Harrison, the Republican candidate, defeated Grover Cleveland, the Democratic incumbent, running for re-election by a margin of 95 votes.

In the governorship elections, Hancock county sided with the Republican candidates only once prior to the Civil war. That was in the first election in which the county voted as a separate county — 1828. Allen Trimble, running on the National Republican ticket, received 44 votes to 30 for John W. Campbell, the Democratic candidate. In 1863, the Republican nominee for Governor of Ohio — John Brough — defeated the Democratic candidate — Clement L. Vallandigham by a margin of 19 votes. The tally stood: Brough, 2,296; Vallandigham, 2,277. Brough was elected Governor in the state.

Another long succession of Democratic successes then ensued in the county in the governorship and it was not until 1891 that the Republicans managed to carry the county for their candidate for Governor. Since then,

Republican gubernatorial candidates have carried Hancock county 26 times in the 33 governorship elections up until the present time. Since the 1888 election, through 1960 Republican presidential candidates have carried Hancock county every time but six out of the 18 national elections.

The long string of Democratic victories at the polls in the expression of a choice for the presidency in the early days meant that some distinguished leaders went down to defeat, at least, so far as Hancock county was concerned.

Abraham Lincoln lost Hancock county in both 1860 and 1864, when running for the presidency. He received 2,135 votes in his first election in 1860 to 2,301 for the United States Senator Stephen A. Douglas, whom Lincoln defeated in the nation at large. John C. Breckenridge, described as a bolting Democrat, got 24 votes.

In the second Lincoln election, General George B. McClellan, one of the north's army leaders, won Hancock county's vote over President Lincoln, 2,300 to 2,178.

General Grant also suffered defeat in Hancock county both times he ran for the Presidency. In 1868, Horatio Seymour, the New York Democratic leader, defeated him 2,528 to 2,279, while four years later Grant lost to Horace Greeley, the celebrated New York editor, by a vote of 2,449 to 2,311.

When a neighbor from Fremont — Rutherford B. Hayes — ran for the Presidency in 1876, Hancock county continued to show its partiality for Democratic nominees for the chief executiveship and gave its vote to Samuel J. Tilden, 3,215 to 2,811.

When Benjamin Harrison defeated Grover Cleveland for the Presidency in 1888 in Hancock county, the Republican victory marked somewhat of a turning point in the political tide, locally. Prior to that time, not only had the county voted Democratic in state and national elections, but also almost solidly in the county and district balloting. A few Republicans managed to get elected now and then, but it was the exception rather than the rule, and due largely to a personal popularity situation that carried them through to success. Dr. Charles Oesterlen, the Findlay physician who led the movement for the drilling of the first gas well, took much pride in the fact that he was the first Republican to be elected to the Ohio general assembly from Hancock county. That was in 1871, more than four decades after the county's origin.

There was a specific reason for the change in the course of the political stream in the late eighties. The gas boom which began in 1885 brought many glass plants into Findlay, as a result of the free and abundant fuel which was available in the community. The glass industry was the beneficiary of high protective tariff schedules, which formed one of the chief planks in the platform of the Republican party in those days. The glass business brought many glass workers to Findlay and a substantial number of them voted the Republican ticket because of the tariff position of the party. This served to increase the ranks of the Republicans in the city and the situation began to reflect itself in the outcome of the elections in the late 1880's.

Additionally, the oil workers who were attracted here by the boom came chiefly from the New York and Pennsylvania oil fields. These states were largely Republican and this, too, served to add to the growing Republican strength.

Nationally, the county began to favor the Republican Presidential candidates to a greater extent. Cleveland turned the tables on Harrison in the 1892 election, however, and carried the county, after Harrison had won in 1888. But in the two McKinley-Bryan Presidential elections in 1896 and 1900, the former Ohio Governor, who was the Republican nominee, carried Hancock county over the silver tongued orator of the Platte, the Democratic candidate. Theodore Roosevelt won for the Republicans easily over Alton B. Parker, the Democratic nominee in 1904, giving the GOP three Presidential victories in a row in Hancock county, for the first time.

In 1908, William Jennings Bryan, again the Democratic nominee, defeated President William Howard Taft in Hancock county, although Taft won the election, nationally. Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic candidate, won the 1912 and 1916 elections in the Hancock county balloting, to be followed by three Republican victories in 1920, 1924 and 1928, with Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert C. Hoover, respectively, capturing the Hancock county vote.

Franklin D. Roosevelt won narrow victories for the Democratic party in Hancock county in 1932 and 1936, his majority over President Hoover in the former year being 114 votes, while he defeated Alfred Landon, locally, in 1936 by a majority of 113. From 1940 on, the Republican nominees for the Presidential office have won Hancock county's favor by very large margins. For instance, President Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson in 1956 by a margin of 10,521 votes. The vote was Eisenhower 15,710; Stevenson 5,189.

With the county casting more Republican votes in both the national and state elections after the oil and gas boom, GOP nominees began to be received with more favor in city and county balloting, too.

Beginning in the mid-1880's, Republicans and Democrats alternated in the office of Mayor of Findlay for nearly 20 years. Election of GOP mayors in Findlay had been a rarity up until then.

A few Republicans began to be elected to county office, after almost solid occupancy by the Democrats from the time of the county's origin. From the late 1880's for the next two and a half decades about as many Republicans as Democrats were elected in Hancock county. The year 1912, with the Republicans split over the Presidency, saw an almost solid Democratic sweep of the Court House offices and this was repeated in 1914 and 1916. In 1918, however, the Republicans were more successful and managed to elect a good share of their candidates.

The year 1920 marked another political milestone in the county's history of public offices. The tide of Republican success began to run high and the party elected its complete ticket at that election for the first time in GOP

history. From then on, the Republican party has been largely the dominant one at the Court House. During the period when Roosevelt was carrying Hancock county in the 1930's, the Democrats won back some of the offices they had lost in the 1920's but Republicans re-captured them later, and have been holding most of the county offices in recent years.

The size of the Republican majorities in 1920 was large, some candidates being elected by margins of nearly 4,000 votes. In previous years, neither party had been able to roll up majorities of such size. In succeeding years majorities have continued large in some instances, depending, of course upon the nature of the contests.

In the city of Findlay, Republicans and Democrats as previously indicated, divided the mayoralty for some years after the oil and gas boom days, although the Republicans have always held the other city offices almost uniformly since the turn of the century. In fact, in some offices in the city, including those of Council President and City Treasurer, Republicans have always occupied them since 1900.

As to the Mayoralty since the turn of the century, Republicans held the post over a period of some 40 years and the Democrats about half of that time. In the last 20 years, there has only been one Democratic tenure and that was for a period of two years right after World War II.

III

WITH REGARD TO THE SIZE of the margins of victory which marked successes in the 1920's, they bore a direct relationship to the fact that the voting strength of the county was doubled that year with the coming of woman's suffrage. Prior to that year women had voted only for members of the board of education.

The county board of elections was faced with a big task of substantially increasing the number of voting precincts when women began to vote. The number of precincts was doubled and women took positions in the booths as judges and clerks for the first time. Up to that time townships in the county had constituted a single precinct but from 1920 they had to be divided to take care of the increased number of voters. When voting machines were introduced in 1951, however, the rural precincts were reduced to some extent because voting could be accomplished so much faster and easier.

Eight women have been elected to public office in Findlay and Hancock county since women's suffrage became effective. In 1924, Edna Bright was elected Clerk of Courts and held the post for two terms of two years each. She was elected on the Republican ticket. In 1927, Mrs. Myrtle Hamprecht was elected city auditor of the municipality. She held the office for two terms of two years each. Mrs. Hamprecht was a Republican. Mrs. Margaretta Schuck, a Republican, was elected probate judge of Hancock county in 1960, for a term of six years, becoming the first woman judge in the history of the community.

In May 1940, Mrs. Alta Cornwell became a commissioner of Hancock county, when she was appointed to take the place of her husband, G. C.

Cornwell, who had died. In the November election of that year, she was then elected to complete the remainder of the unexpired term until Jan. 1, 1941. Mrs. Cornwell was a Democrat.

Four women have been elected to the Findlay Board of Education. Early in the 1920's, Mrs. Charles C. Peale, whose husband was pastor of the First Methodist church here and who was the mother of the noted clergyman, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, of New York, was elected to the board. Two years later, Mrs. L. A. Turner was elected to the board which then became composed of three men and two women at that time. In 1955, Mrs. John A. Stitt was elected to the Board of Education but was defeated in 1959 for a second term. Mrs. John Spitler was elected to the board in 1963. Terms on the Board of Education run for four years.

Miss Gertrude Jones, of Findlay, became the Republican candidate for Congress from the 8th district in 1936, winning the district nomination of the party in the six counties which made up the congressional area at that time. She was defeated in the election, however by Brooks Fletcher, of Marion, the Democratic incumbent. Miss Jones served for a number of years as Republican committeewoman from the 8th district and later was appointed by John W. Bricker, then Governor, to the state Civil Service Commission, of which she became chairman later. Miss Jones died a few years ago while traveling in Italy.

It is interesting to recall that with women's suffrage in 1920, women began to serve on juries in the local courts for the first time then too.

IV

THE METHOD of making party nominations for public office was changed in 1909 as a result of the adoption of the primary system for such nominations on a state-wide basis. Prior to that time, party conventions were held to make nominations for all offices. Such conventions were made up of delegates from each precinct, who had previously been chosen in a caucus, held within the precinct by members of the party residing in that area. The city and county conventions were held on the third floor of the present city hall after its erection in 1902. On this floor was a large auditorium, with a full array of seats, a balcony and a full stage. Nominations were made from the floor as the list of wards and precincts were called and the delegates then balloted upon their choices for the different offices, just as the national presidential conventions do today.

When the primary system was introduced, candidates were then required to file nominating petitions with the Board of Elections and their names then appeared on the tickets which went before the primary election voters. This, of course, is the system in effect today.

When the new system was begun, it was felt that it would thwart machine politics, bring out large turnouts of voters to the polls and generally reform the political scene. There are many who question as to whether all this has happened.

The first primary was held in 1909, when municipal offices were

elected here. In the initial primary balloting, the Democratic voters re-nominated James B. Walker as their candidate for Mayor, while the Republicans nominated E. Lincoln Groves, a former Sheriff of Hancock county. Walker, a Civil war veteran had served two terms and had acquired the sobriquet of "Dandelion Jim" because he had suggested one way to solve the dandelion problem in Findlay was to transform them into dandelion wine. Groves defeated him in the November election.

The first primary for the nomination of county and district offices was in 1910. It was conducted in May, as now. A little later the primary election date was changed to August, but subsequently was moved back to May. In the first primary at which district candidates were nominated, Findlay's Congressman in the 8th district, Ralph D. Cole, Sr., father of our present Hancock county Representative, lost out for a fourth term in Congress. Frank B. Willis, a member of the faculty of Ohio Northern University, defeated him in the district nomination contest.

While discussing the primary system, it is interesting to observe a matter of some interest with regard to political campaigns as they are now conducted. They involve almost a full year of a candidate's interest and time. He must file his nominating petitions the first part of February with the Board of Elections. Then the primary comes the first Tuesday in May. Six months later is the election, in November. So an aspirant for public office is before the people for the better part of a full year's time before a decision is made at the polls. This is not true of candidates for Board of Education, who file later in the year and who are not subjected to primaries.

With the party convention of other days went gay and colorful political parades which used to accompany party campaigns in the olden times. By torch light, the faithful marched down Main street, carrying flamboyant banners and urging the election of their favorites. Such parades usually preceded a party rally at some theater or auditorium, at which a national or state leader was booked to speak. These rallies continued for a good many years, without their colorful parade aspects, but of late they have been fading into history too, as radio and television are employed more and more to tell the party stories and carry voting appeals to the public.

Registration of voters in Findlay began late in the 1880's after the town's great growth due to the oil and gas boom. A special emergency law enacted by the Ohio general assembly provided for the introduction of voter registration in the city because the population had increased so rapidly.

It was necessary to register only in Findlay up until the middle 1950's, although the law gives the Board of Elections the authority to extend voter registration to the entire county at its discretion. In 1957, the board decided to gradually extend registration to rural areas of Hancock county and three of the townships adjoining Findlay or Fostoria — Marion, Liberty and Washington — were included in the registration area. All the rest of the county went on a full registration basis in 1961.

Under the registration regulations, a voter's registration remains

permanent until he or she should fail to vote at least once in two years' time. In event of such failure, a new registration is required.

V

AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINES were introduced in Hancock county in 1951, when county commissioners, at the request of the county board of elections, purchased them, the county becoming one of the first in Ohio to adopt this modern means of balloting. The new system is saving considerable money because less precinct manpower is required. It has been possible to combine some voting precincts and fewer judges and clerks are needed to handle the work. It produces an accurate tally of the votes quickly and enables the outcome of elections to be known promptly. Election results are now fully tabulated as early as 9 P.M. on election nights whereas under the pencil and paper method it frequently took 10 or 12 hours after the polls closed before the totals were completed by election officials.

The county owns approximately 100 voting machines. There are as many as three in some precincts. The financial outlay has amounted to some \$75,000. The county was able to completely pay the bill for the machines in a very few years after buying them.

VI

THE FACT THAT HANCOCK COUNTY includes a portion of the city of Fostoria has led to some interesting political situations. The entire second ward of Fostoria is located within Hancock county. The remainder is in Seneca and Wood counties. Only one Hancock county office holder ever came from the second ward of Fostoria, although residents of this part of Hancock county have as much right to hold county offices as any other, naturally. The one was the late Judge John D. Snyder, who served on the probate bench from 1897 to 1903. He was a resident of Fostoria's second ward and serving as city solicitor of Fostoria at the time. He was nominated at the Republican party's convention for Hancock county before the days of the primary. It would be exceedingly difficult today for a resident of Fostoria to win a primary election in Hancock county because of his lack of acquaintance outside of Fostoria.

An interesting situation developed with regard to the hospital bond issue a few years ago, as a result of the Fostoria second ward situation. It so happens that Fostoria's municipal hospital is located in the Hancock county part of Fostoria. As a consequence, it was a little difficult to convince Hancock county taxpayers residing in the Hancock county part of Fostoria that they should vote to tax themselves again for hospital purposes and especially when they would probably never make use of the hospital to be built in Findlay. But in spite of this situation, a third of the voters of the Fostoria second ward voted in favor of the new Blanchard Valley hospital.

There have been some exceedingly interesting and exciting elections in the community through the years. The local option election on the liquor question in 1914 in Findlay stirred the city's interest particularly. It was a

special election held in December. The county had been "dry" (sale of intoxicating beverages prohibited) since 1908 under the so-called Rose law which had just been enacted in Ohio and which enabled whole counties to vote to outlaw the sale of liquor. However the law was repealed in 1914 and Findlay was due to witness a return to the open sale of liquor. The "dry" forces circulated petitions calling for a vote on the issue within the municipality under the so-called Beal law, which still remained on the statute books. The election was set to be held only a few weeks prior to the time when the sale of liquor was to become legal again. The election developed intense interest and the hard-fought campaign was marked by much bitterness. The outcome was a victory for the "drys" by the following vote: Yes 2,224; no 1,861.

Findlay continued dry until 1933. In connection with the repeal of national prohibition at that time, the state of Ohio also took action nullifying all previous local option votes, requiring all areas which wanted to remain dry to vote again, this time under provisions of the new Ohio liquor control act. Findlay voted again on the matter of outlawing sale of intoxicating beverages in 1936, under this act, and the result favored sale of liquor in the community. The result was for such sale 6,448; against 3,411.

Strange as it may seem now, Findlay witnessed a wave of Socialistic sentiment around 1908 and for several years afterward. The Socialists even elected a member of the City Council in the teens. He only served for one term. He represented the second ward in the legislative body.

Socialist candidates for Mayor polled a substantial vote in those days. In 1909, a Socialist nominee for Mayor received 719 votes. The successful Republican candidate only got 1,499 votes. In 1911, the Socialist Mayor candidate outpolled the Democratic candidate for Mayor and came within around 250 votes of being elected. In 1915, some of the Socialists combined their strength with a group of independents and their candidate again pulled up second in the Mayoralty contest. In the 1917, 1919 and 1921 elections, they still received considerable voting support, their nominee for Mayor coming within only 18 votes of finishing second in 1921. Since then, the independents and Socialists have dropped from sight so far as elections are concerned, locally. During the period of the teens, they caused the local political leaders much concern and their disappearance from the scene gave both Republican and Democratic a sense of relief.

In county politics, there were three parties contending for public offices in 1912 in Hancock county, as a result of the Republican split between the Theodore Roosevelt and Taft forces on a national level.

Some of the top leaders of the Republican party in Hancock county broke with the so-called regular organization and helped form the Progressive party, which was supporting Roosevelt for President against President Taft, who was seeking a second term. The split presented a difficult situation for the Morning Republican, the Republican party organ. The president of the

newspaper publishing company, Dr. N. L. Maclachlan, was one of the dominant leaders of the Republican party in the county and he joined the bolters to help form the new party. The newspaper's operating heads, who of course were the chief owners of the daily, were under much pressure to join the new movement, but kept the paper in the regular Republican column.

The Progressives named candidates for a number of county offices, but none of them were elected, in the 1912 election.

VII

ELECTIONS HAVE TURNED on various issues. This is particularly true in municipal elections.

As an example, in the 1917 election for Mayor of Findlay, the paramount issue revolved around whether coal should be confiscated for the relief of a fuel shortage which had developed as a result of the war which was raging at that time.

The Mayor was running for re-election. In many surrounding cities, faced with a similar fuel shortage, Mayors were stopping coal trains which were going through their town and ordering the train crews to set out a car or two of coal for the use of the townspeople, with a financial settlement or adjustment to be made later.

But the Findlay Mayor, who had ideas of his own regarding the ethics of such seizures, refused to indulge in confiscation procedures. The opposition was making much of the situation, calling attention to the discomfort of the people.

Finally the Mayor gave in late in October and seized a couple cars of coal. He was re-elected by the small margin of only 87 votes and it was generally agreed that he would have lost the election had he not taken the course he did, regardless of whether it was ethically or morally right.

Some of the local school elections have been of high interest. Early in the 1930's the tax laws of Ohio were drastically changed. As a consequence, the Findlay schools had to look to new sources of revenue, obtainable only by a vote of the people. The first few such elections on the question of levying taxes beyond the statutory limits saw the issue defeated. The Board of Education, with its funds completely exhausted, finally had no alternative but to close the schools in the middle of the winter, in 1936. This was done and a special election called as an emergency measure. The voters, under these circumstances, gave their approval to the issue and the schools were re-opened after having been closed for a month or so. Since then, special tax levies for operative purposes have been uniformly approved.

There have been some exceedingly close elections in Findlay and Hancock county. In some such cases there have been legal contests to determine the winner. In the 1901 Mayoralty contest in Findlay, the Democratic candidate for mayor defeated the Republican nominee by only three votes. In 1916, the Democratic candidate for County Engineer won

over his Republican opponent by only 18 votes. The Findlay Mayor race was settled in 1951 by 61 votes. Quite a number of other election contests over the years have been decided by fewer than 100 ballots, giving force to the contention that every vote counts and that it is important that all electors exercise their franchise privilege.

While there has never been a tie vote for a major office in the city or county, so far there have been ties for some village and township offices. In such events, the Board of Elections has flipped a coin in the presence of the candidates to decide the winner.

VIII

IN THE EARLIER DAYS of the county, it was not uncommon for one individual to hold more than one county office at different times. The records show that one man held as high as three county offices in four instances, serving at different times, of course. The pay was not large in those days and it was difficult to find men to run for office, it seemed. The offices involved were Clerk of Courts, Prosecuting Attorney, Coroner and Representative. In several instances, holders of county offices later held city offices, or vice-versa. In current times, one public official has held three county offices during his career.

The record for holding county office the longest in Hancock county belongs to Joel Pendleton, who served more than 36 years as County Engineer. He was first elected to the post in 1838 and served until 1854 and then served again from 1857 to 1876. The next longest record belongs to Judge William F. Duncan, who was on the Common Pleas bench for some 32 years, retiring in 1934.

In the municipality, the longest record of service in the Mayoralty was held by E. Lincoln Groves, who served as head of the city government of Findlay from 1910 to 1914 and then again from 1924 to 1932, for a total of six terms of two years each, or for 12 years. E. Harlan Struble, who served as City Auditor from 1943 to 1956, holds the record for this office and in fact for length of service in elective municipal offices. He was elected Council President in 1957 retiring at the end of 1963.

Ernest W. McCall holds the record for the longest service as a member of the Findlay Board of Education. He was first elected in 1931 and served for six terms of four years each for a total of 24 consecutive years. This record outranks any other in either the schools or the city government.

It is interesting to recall that in nine instances, sons have occupied the same county offices that their fathers filled in Hancock county some years earlier. In the office of Representative to the State Legislature, Ralph D. Cole, Jr., present holder of this office, followed his late father, Col. Ralph D. Cole, who had held the post at one time. Judge Chester Pendleton and his late father, Judge George F. Pendleton, both occupied the Common Pleas court bench. Each of the Pendletons also held the office of Prosecuting Attorney. U. K. Stringfellow and his son, Max, both were County Engineers.

In both the Pendleton and Stringfellow cases, the fathers were occupying their offices when the present Court House was built in the late 1880's. Peter Hosler and his son, David Hosler, were County Treasurers and Andrew Bish and his son, William S. Bish, also served as County Treasurers, the son having been appointed to succeed his father when the latter died. The office of County Coroner was filled by father and son. Parlee C. Tritch held the office, as did his son, Dr. J. C. Tritch a little later on. The father occupied the office before the state law required that a physician be elected to the post. John E. Betts held the office of Prosecuting Attorney at one time and later on his son, Jackson E. Betts served in the same office. Howard Poe served as county commissioner, some years after his late father, George V. Poe, had held the same post.

The oldest former holder of county office now is Elmer Bolton, who served as County Engineer for nine months in 1897, filling an unexpired term and then later served from 1902 to 1906. He is now a resident of California. Following his service in county office he became a member of the engineering staff of the Ohio Oil company and continued in this capacity until his retirement some years ago. He is the only living former county official whose service goes back beyond 1900.

IX

WE HAVE SEEN the election of such officials as Fence Viewers, Listers and the like in the early days. There were other public offices in the pioneer days which no longer exist today.

Fence Viewers had an unique responsibility. They were charged with the task of seeing that fences were strong enough, high enough and tight enough to keep stock from getting over into the neighbors' fields and causing damage. D. B. Beardsley's History of Hancock county, in describing their work, tells of the Fence Viewers in Biglick township. There were three of them and the story was related that they were elected because of their physical characteristics. One was very large in size and one very small in stature. The third was a lively, active individual. The people of Biglick township figured, so the story goes, that if neither the large nor the small man could get through the fence and the active one could not jump over it, the fence was O. K.

Listers were the Appraisers of the early days. They looked over each individual's property and listed it for taxation.

When the offices of Fence Viewer and Lister as such were abolished as such is not known. The office of Assessor was substituted for Lister eventually. Each ward had its elected Assesor, with the County Auditor as the head of the county taxation machinery, as he is today. The Assessor's office was finally abolished and the Auditor is now the general Assessor, with authority to employ others to assist him in this work.

It is interesting to recall that the Assessors had the additional task of listing the births in their area. When they made their rounds each spring,

they were supposed to obtain a list of the new babies born within the past 12 months. These went into a record kept in the Probate Court. Since most of the Assessors were men in their later years of life, the birth record was not kept very accurately, as one might imagine. Around 1910, the state enacted legislation setting up registrars of vital statistics, locally, to whom doctors are required to report births and deaths. The records are kept in the Department of Health.

When Ohio was admitted to the union shortly after 1800, its judiciary was reorganized and the state was divided into circuits for the administration of justice. For each circuit a Judge who had to be a lawyer in good standing, was elected by the General Assembly for a term of seven years. Three Associate Judges were chosen in each county by the same body and for the same length of service. Brown's history says they were "intelligent citizens, usually farmers or business men, many of whom, however knew very little about law."

The Lawyer-Judge, with the Associates, composed the Court of Common Pleas of each county and this system remained in effect until another reorganization of the judiciary under the new state constitution of 1851. The new system provided for a division of the state into judicial districts and each district into subdivisions. It abolished the office of Associate Judge and authorized the election of one Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for a subdivision of the judicial district. Election was for five years. Subsequently the law was again changed and now each county in the state has at least one Common Pleas Judge.

The first Associate Judges to be elected in Hancock county were Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson. The first meeting of the court in Findlay was in 1828. The records reveal that the only business transacted at the first session of the court was the naming of Wilson Vance as Clerk pro tem.

Another public office which no longer exists today was that of School Examiner. The first School Examiner was named in 1828 in Hancock county. The Board of School Examiners consisted of three citizens, named by the County Court. Terms were for three years. The duties of the Examiners were to have charge of and conduct the examinations for teachers and grant certificates to those successfully passing the tests. The office of School Examiner was abolished not long after the turn of the century, when other means of qualifying teachers became effective in Ohio.

Other public offices which have disappeared were Overseers of the Poor and Infirmary Directors. Other offices have absorbed the duties of these posts.

X

SOME FINDLAY MEN have held high state offices during the town's history. Jacob F. Burket, who was a prominent Findlay attorney, served as Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme court around the turn of the century. At that

time, justices of the court elected their own chief or presiding justice from among their number and Judge Burket was so named while a member of the court. Jackson E. Betts, also a Findlay attorney, served as speaker of the Ohio house of representatives during the 1940's for one term. Mr. Betts later went to Congress from the 8th congressional district and became a member of the important ways and means committee of that body.

Beecher W. Waltermire, a Findlay attorney, was a member of the State Public Utilities Commission at one time. Walter H. Kinder was State Superintendent of Insurance and Alexander R. Taylor was State Director of Highways.

John W. Zeller, Findlay Superintendent of Public Schools, was State School Commissioner at one time, the position at that time having been elective. He served in this office some 50 years ago.

Findlay men have held high posts in party affairs through the years. Dr. Carl Watson, of Hancock county, was Chairman of the state Democratic committee in the 1930's, while William J. Frey, of Findlay, held a similar post a half century ago. Dr. Watson also was State Director of the Works Progress Administration, (the WPA) during the Roosevelt administration in the 1930 era.

Ralph D. Cole, of Findlay, who served three terms in Congress from the 8th district, was National Chairman of the Republican speakers' bureau at one time. He was one of the most brilliant orators of the party, as was his brother, the late R. Clinton Cole, who also served in Congress for three terms from the 8th district.

Several Hancock county citizens have served in the high office of Presidential Elector in Ohio, having been nominated to represent the 8th congressional district.

In the second Eisenhower election, Robert Evans, also of Findlay, was an elector. Earlier, Jacob Burket, who later became Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme court, was named as a Presidential Elector in 1880, voting for the Garfield-Arthur ticket. John Dukes, of Blanchard township, was President Elector on the William Henry Harrison-Tyler ticket in 1840. William Taylor was a Presidential Elector in 1856 for the Fremont-Dayton ticket, which lost the election, but carried Ohio, so Mr. Taylor was able to vote in the electoral college.

Hancock county party leaders also have served as delegates to the national conventions of their parties over the years. Such delegates are named by congressional districts with two from each area. They are chosen at the May primary every four years.

XI

HANCOCK COUNTY is located in three Ohio districts which elect public office holders. One is the 8th congressional district which elects a representative to the U. S. Congress, every two years. Another is the third appellate

judicial district which elects a Judge every two years. The third is the 30th-33rd state senatorial district which elects members of the Ohio senate.

The 8th congressional district for the year 1965-66 consists of these seven counties: Hancock, Seneca, Hardin, Marion, Wyandot, Morrow and Crawford. Beginning in 1967, Richland and Delaware counties will become a part of the district.

The district has had a varied career, boundary-wise, over the years. For a long time prior to 1913, the district included the following counties: Hancock, Hardin, Union, Logan, Champaign, and Delaware. It was solidly Republican.

In 1913, a Democratic legislature redistricted the state and created an entirely new 8th district, leaving only Hancock and Hardin counties as part of the new district from among the counties which had made up the district. To them were added Marion, Wyandot, Morrow and Crawford. It was set up as a Democratic district. However, since its creation, there have been more Republicans elected than Democrats. Seneca county was added to the 8th district in 1951 in a new shuffle of counties by the legislature. Richland and Delaware counties were then added by the 1965 legislature to become a part of the 8th district starting in 1967.

Since the Civil war, the following Hancock county citizens have served in Congress: William Mungen, two terms beginning in 1867; Ralph D. Cole, three terms, beginning in 1905; R. Clint Cole, three terms beginning in 1919; Jackson E. Betts, first elected in 1950 and re-elected in 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962 and 1964.

The third appellate district is made up of 16 northwestern Ohio counties as follows: Hancock, Allen, Putnam, Henry, Hardin, Marion, Wyandot, Van Wert, Defiance, Paulding, Crawford, Union, Logan, Champaign, Mercer and Auglaize.

The district has existed in this form for a good many years. There are three Judges, with terms of six years, the term of one member of the court expiring every two years. Since the turn of the century Hancock county has had three members of the court as follows: Sillas E. Hurin, elected in 1904; Walter E. Kinder, elected in 1908; and Chester Pendleton, who became a member of the court in 1930 to fill an unexpired term.

The state senatorial district has witnessed a good many changes over the years. It now consists of these nine counties: Hancock, Putnam, Fulton, Henry, Wood, Erie, Sandusky, Huron and Ottawa.

The district is a combination of two original districts. They were combined in the 1930's because the population of each was insufficient, under the terms of the state districting law, to warrant a single senator at every election period. So, for a period of two years in each decade, the district is allowed two senators, to equalize representation. Senators are now elected for terms of four years for regular tenures.

Since the Civil war, Hancock county citizens have been elected to the state senate as follows, with the year of their election also shown: H. P.

Gage, 1872; David Joy, 1878; William L. Carlin, 1888; Thomas H. McConica, 1894; H. Walter Doty, 1898; Delbert Latta, 1952; Dr. Tennyson Guyer, 1958 for two years, then re-elected four years later for a four-year term.

In the beginning, Hancock was aligned with Wood, Seneca, Sandusky and Huron counties as a state senatorial district. Through the years many changes in boundaries took place until the 1851 constitutional convention established these counties as the 33rd state senatorial district: Hancock, Lucas, Wood, Putnam, Fulton and Henry. Later Lucas county became a district by itself.

While Hancock county elects its own representative to the General Assembly today, such was not always the case. When Hancock became a county in 1828, it was part of a district consisting of Seneca, Wood and Sandusky for the selection of a member of the assembly. Through the early years, a number of changes developed in district alignment. At one time, Hancock was a part of a district which also included Lucas county, Henry, Wood and Williams. The new constitution of 1851 established Hancock county as a unit by itself, entitling the county to have its own representative. Just prior to 1851, the district included only Wyandot and Hancock counties.

XII

THE ELECTION MACHINERY in the county is in charge of a board known as deputy supervisors of elections. The term "deputy" arises from the fact they serve, in a sense, as aides of the Secretary of State, who is the chief supervisor of elections in Ohio. There are four members of the board, serving terms of four years each. Two represent each party. They are appointed by the secretary of state, upon recommendation of party committees.

Hancock county, in the 1950 federal census, was shown to have 29,043 people of qualified voting age. Yet in the 1952 Presidential election, only 20,367 people went to the polls to cast ballots for President. In 1956, only 20,899 electors voted for President. In 1960, the total rose to 23,771, but in 1964 it dropped back, amounting to 23,157.

Hancock county in the 1960 federal census was shown to have 32,089 people of qualified voting age. Yet in that year only 23,771 voters went to the polls to cast ballots for president, while in 1964 when the number of qualified individuals from an age standpoint was estimated to be around 34,000, only 23,157 voted for president.

This means that approximately 26% failed to exercise their franchise in 1960 and around 32% neglected to vote in 1964.

The problem of how to appeal to non-voting citizens to get them to the polls has long been a puzzling one. The answer is yet to be found.

Chapter 10

The Good Roads Movement Has Transformed Community Life

I

THE AUTOMOBILE AND MODERN HIGHWAYS have transformed life in America. The advent of the motor car in the early 1900's made good roads a necessity. It was not until the second decade of the new century however that the construction of hard-surfaced highways got under way on a substantial basis in Ohio and many other states.

Hancock county was not long in joining the good roads movement. As automobiles continued to multiply in the community, sentiment for improved highways on which they could conveniently travel steadily increased. For many years, the highest type of road construction was the so-called water-bound macadam or pike. Such roads were considered of top quality for travel by horse and buggy, but they soon gave way under the impact of motor cars. They were built of rolled stone, without a top seal such as we have today.

In view of such circumstances, plans were afoot fairly early in the 1910 decade for the building of the first hard-surfaced roads such as we have today. But it was a different procedure that prevailed then, as compared with today, with regard to highway improvement.

Now the state and federal governments finance practically all road and bridge construction on highways that are on the state and federal systems within the county. The only major exception is concerned with purchase of right-of-way when such a route cuts through a portion of a municipality, such as a section of the new by-pass west of Findlay. The law requires that the city contribute to such costs on a formula basis.

In the earlier days of highway building, the county and abutting property owners had to share in providing the funds, if any state or federal highways were to be paved. The state and federal governments would promise to furnish a stipulated sum if the county co-operated through utilization of some of its own money. Land owners whose properties adjoined the affected

roads, too, were required to pay a portion of the cost. Their assessments were figured on a foot frontage basis.

In later years, the state legislature enacted a law freeing land owners of further levies for roadway purposes and reimbursing them for previous highway assessments.

Counties, too, were freed from having to share the costs of highway construction on state and federal routes.

II

IT WAS IN 1916 that the county began to witness the actual realization of plans for hard-surfaced roads. U. S. No. 25, known then in the records officially as the Lima-Sandusky highway, so far as the Findlay-Lima section was concerned, and known as the Findlay-Perrysburg road from Findlay northward, was the first route to receive consideration for a pavement with a material that would permit swift passage of motor cars over a smooth surface. (The Lima-Sandusky highway continued eastward on the Fostoria road).

The Dixie highway association had been organized to promote a north and south route between Michigan and Florida. What is now U. S. 25 was designated as the Ohio section of this transcontinental system. This brought the new route directly through Findlay and Hancock county.

Once so designated, the movement to hard surface the route took definite form. Col. Ralph D. Cole, of Findlay, became a leader in the Dixie highway movement and devoted much time to its promotion here and elsewhere. The aid of the state and federal governments was enlisted and it was not long before a decision was made to proceed with the improvement through the county. Contracts were let and by the close of 1917, most of the route was open to travel, with its new surface. Brick was used over much of the route.

Hancock was one of the early counties to get its section of the Dixie improved. It was not until 1919 or 1920 that Wood county completed its last section. That was the stretch directly north of Hancock county from the Wood county line for a distance of a half dozen miles.

The city had its difficulties in connection with the Dixie improvement. In order to provide motorists with a through stretch of hard surface roadway, the city was faced with the necessity of paving a section of between one and two miles of Lima avenue from the western city limits down to where the Lima avenue pavement ended in those days, which was around Hurd or Western avenues. The same situation arose on North Main street to connect the Dixie pavement with the city's paving, meaning the closing of quite a big gap. City Council struggled with the problem for some time and finally decided to issue general bonds to cover the cost since the adjoining property in many instances could not stand the tax burden, much of it being vacant land.

With the pavement of the Dixie, which soon became a popular driving route for those with motor cars in those days when a spin in an automobile

was a thrilling experience, sentiment for early improvement of other roadways in the county grew rapidly.

County Commissioners were urged to speed plans to get other roadways paved as soon as possible. It was necessary in those days for the county officials to make trips to Columbus to confer with the state highway authorities to solicit their interest in appropriations for highway purposes and many journeys were made to the state capital in this connection.

For a year or so, however, Findlay and Hancock county were extremely fortunate. Governor James M. Cox appointed a Findlay man — Alexander R. Taylor, a three-time county Surveyor in Hancock county — as state highway commissioner in 1919 and this saved the county commissioners some of their journeys, for Mr. Taylor continued to make his home in Findlay and it wasn't difficult to confer with him on this account.

III

IN 1919 AND 1920, substantial progress was made in getting more roads hard surfaced in the county. Much of the road south to Arlington and Williamstown was paved during these years. Work was started on the Findlay-Fostoria highway at that time, while the Findlay-McComb road also shared in the program of those early years. Other roads continued to receive attention and by the end of the decade of the 1920's practically all the state and federal highways in Hancock county were hardsurfaced. Among the last to be paved were the Findlay-Tiffin road, now U. S. No. 224 and the Lincoln highway, U. S. No. 30-North.

The Lincoln highway did not always traverse Hancock county. It was in 1919 that it was officially routed through the county, the national association which promoted the coast-to-coast route changing the course through this section of Ohio at that time to provide a more direct route, with fewer angles and turns. Up until 1919, the Lincoln left Upper Sandusky westward on state route No. 53, then took state route No. 81 to Lima and on to Delphos. This took the route through Forest, Dunkirk, Dola and Ada. With the change the route went straight west from Upper Sandusky on the present route through Williamstown and Beaver Dam, hooking up with the former route at Delphos.

While sections of the old route were being paved, prior to the 1919 route change, the Lincoln was temporarily routed through Marion, Kenton and Lima. With the new route considerably north of these cities, they protested vigorously when they were going to lose their U. S. No. 30 traffic and a compromise was finally worked out whereby the Marion-Kenton-Lima route was known as U. S. 30-South and the regular Lincoln route became known as U. S. 30-North for the stretch from Mansfield to Delphos.

The Lincoln route traverses southern Hancock county along a route which is only a half mile from the southern edge of the county. Since it only goes through one small town — Williamstown — and the hamlet of New Stark in Hancock county, County Commissioners for some time were hesitant

to spend much Hancock county money on the improvement of the highway. Finally the federal government came to the rescue, since this was about the last segment of the Lincoln route in the state of Ohio that was unpaved. Federal funds in sizeable quantity were provided and the improvement went through late in the 1920's. Col. Cole, long an advocate of good roads and a leader in the Dixie highway program, gave the address at the dedication ceremonies which were held in the high school at Mt. Blanchard, inclement weather having made it necessary to cancel plans for a roadside ceremony on the route.

In the earlier days of highway construction, the county's share of funds for improvement of the various state and federal roads came largely from the sale of bonds. For some years a special tax of one mill was levied in the county on the general duplicate for good roads. This was mostly in the 1920's. The Findlay Automobile club gave leadership to the movement for the tax, which came up for renewal every few years.

It is interesting to recall that northwestern Ohio has one of the first of Ohio's hard-surfaced highways. It was the Carey-Upper Sandusky roadway, for many years U. S. No. 23 and now state route No. 199. Just why this was one of the original roads paved, is not known. The pavement was laid a year before Hancock county's Dixie highway was improved. Findlay and Hancock county motorists, knowing of the Carey-Upper Sandusky pavement, used to struggle through the ruts of the road between Findlay and Carey to get to Carey to enjoy the pleasure of a ride over the smooth surface of the Carey-Upper Sandusky highway.

Hancock county holds the enviable distinction of having all of its roadways on which homes are located completely hard surfaced. Very few counties in the state can boast of such an achievement. This is due to the fact that the citizenry of the city and county is alert to the necessity for good roads and the further fact that public officials of the community are progressive and keenly aware of the importance of keeping pace with the times.

IV

A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT in the highway history of the community has been the construction of what is now Interstate highway No. 75, which follows the general route of the old U. S. No. 25 (Dixie highway) through the county.

The Interstate highway system was created by Congress towards the end of the 1950 decade, constituting a network of some 41,000 miles of four-lane limited access roadways throughout the entire United States. The federal government contributes 90 per cent of the cost and the state governments the remainder, save for a limited amount furnished by local municipalities depending upon the amount of right-of-way to be obtained therein.

The Interstate highway No. 75 which traverses Hancock county is a 1,531-mile roadway running between Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Tampa, Fla.

Hancock county's mileage of this long route was completed in 1964. The 11-mile stretch between Findlay and the Bluffton area southwest of the city was the last to be finished. It was opened to traffic in August of 1964.

Included in the Interstate No. 75 route through Hancock county is what was originally developed as a Findlay by-pass on the west side of the city in the mid 1950's. This four-lane improvement was then extended by the state and federal government to the Wood county line. The extension from the north end of Findlay to Wood county became one of the first in the entire United States to come under the new federal Interstate program. The bill was signed by President Eisenhower in August, 1956 and the award of the first contracts in Ohio under the provisions of the new legislation a few weeks later included the Hancock county project and one near Cincinnati. These two and one in Missouri were the very first Interstate awards in the entire nation, it is understood.

Interstate highway No. 75, running between Toledo and Cincinnati in Ohio, is one of a half dozen through transportation arteries within the Buckeye state on the new system. The others include the new Ohio Turnpike, the old U. S. No. 40 through Columbus, Zanesville and Springfield, a new highway between Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland, and a route between Cleveland, Canton and Marietta. In eastern Ohio, an Interstate route branches off from the turnpike near Elyria to travel along Lake Erie to the Pennsylvania line. Another branch leaves the turnpike near Akron for New Jersey. There are some shorter Interstate system roadways in the vicinity of the state's metropolitan centers but these are only connecting highways.

Hancock county is fortunate to be included in the new Interstate system, which, it has been predicted, will save many lives and reduce accidents substantially because of its modern construction. It has been estimated that the 41,000-mile network, when completed in 1972, will carry 20 per cent of all the motor vehicle traffic in the United States, although it will include only one per cent of the nation's total road and street mileage.

V

IN THE FALL OF 1964, there was completed within Hancock county a second four-lane highway, which constitutes a section of what is projected as a new multiple lane route between Columbus and Toledo.

The program for such a route was launched in 1962 in Ohio and the first contracts awarded the fall of that year. It is hoped to have the four-lane improvement finished by the latter part of the current decade.

The Hancock county segment consists of a four-lane highway running between a connection with Interstate Highway No. 75 near the plant of Northern Ohio Sugar company on the west edge of Findlay and the Wyandot county boundary line on the east. In Wyandot county, further segments of the route have just been completed. Other sections will travel over new right-of-way further south towards Columbus as they are developed.

Within Hancock county, the new route has been designated state highway No. 15. In Wyandot county, it retains the U. S. No. 23 designation from a junction with the new state route No. 15 southwest of Carey. The old No. 15 route in Hancock county between Findlay and Carey has been given another number by the state highway department, becoming state route No. 568.

The section of Interstate Highway No. 75 north of Findlay will form a part of the Toledo-Columbus route.

The federal government and the state are each furnishing 50 per cent of the cost of the Toledo-Columbus highway improvement.

The bridge and roadway improvement on Broad avenue in Findlay, which was started in 1964 in connection with better access to the new senior high school is a secondary highway project. It became such by virtue of the fact that a school was involved. This is the first time that the federal government has assisted financially in a street or highway improvement within the municipality.

VI

IN ADDITION TO STATE AND FEDERAL ROADWAYS within the county, there are three other types of highways. One category is that of the federal secondary system of roadways. This program went into effect some years ago, when the federal government inaugurated a policy of providing some financial help to counties for improvement of some of the more important county roads. Such highways were especially designated on a map which was prepared and approved by the U. S. government. As funds are available, major improvements can be undertaken on such roads with federal assistance now. The new bridge over the Blanchard river on county road No. 140 near the county home and the new bridge over Lye creek on the Bethlehem road east of the city were projects which came under the second federal system program.

There also are county and township roads. The county roads, of course, are the more important of the two groups and generally speaking are through arteries serving larger areas. All county and township roads have now been numbered and can easily be located. Maps of the entire road system within the county are sold at the office of the county engineer at the Court House.

Funds for the improvement of county and township highways come from two sources: the sale of automobile license plates and the gasoline tax. The state which collects the taxes distributes them to the local tax districts on a formula basis, set up by state law. Hancock county's portion amounts to approximately \$750,000 each year. The county commissioners and the county engineer expend the county's share of the money as they see fit each year in building and maintaining the system of highways and bridges. Township trustees expend their own share.

The city of Findlay and villages also receive funds from these sources for street improvements.

VII

THE CONSTRUCTION of the first so-called hard surface roadway in Hancock county in the 1910's came nearly 100 years after the opening of the first road in the county in the 1820's. The county had its origin in 1828, but the first roadway was ordered built in 1820 by the state between the Maumee river and Bellefontaine through Findlay. The route followed the present state and county highways directly north and south of Findlay.

The fall of 1828 saw a start on a road between Findlay and Marion, following a route which is not the usual way of travelling to Marion in more modern days. The road branched off the Findlay-Bellefontaine road just south of Findlay after crossing Eagle creek and followed a southeasterly direction towards Marion over roads which today are county or township highways.

The first petition of landowners for a highway was filed June 1, 1829 for a public highway from the east line of Hancock county into Findlay through Vanlue. The second petition was filed a year later for a road commencing at the Hardin county line and extending north through Mt. Blanchard, meeting the highway from the east provided for in the first petition on its route to Findlay.

There followed in the 1830's improvements which brought highways to various other sections of the new county.

Highways were developed early in the 1830's that followed to a large extent the path of General Hull's army through the area in 1812. South of Findlay, this route—known as Hull's trace—followed the west side of Eagle creek largely and some of the roadways along the creek today are those which were laid out along the Hull trail in the early days. North of Findlay, the trace wound through what is now Allen township and at least one of the present roads in that township was laid out on the trail's path as it proceeded northward.

It was usually necessary to cut down vast areas of timber to make a route for the new highways, which were built of only dirt in the early days, stone and gravel highways not coming into the picture until considerably later.

VIII

TWO HANCOCK COUNTY HIGHWAYS, built many years ago, have names that are not associated with towns within the county. One is the Port Clinton road and the other the New Haven road.

The state legislature in 1830 authorized the construction of a highway from Port Clinton on Lake Erie to Findlay. The road as originally laid out was to be 57 miles, starting "from a post at the corner of the brick hotel in Port Clinton" and ending "at the north side of the Court House square in Fort Findlay."

The available records do not reveal just why the state thought such a

road should be built. The road was laid out, following a rather devious path, entering Findlay on what is now Crystal avenue. Today, it is no longer a state route, of course.

The New Haven road, which enters Findlay now on state route No. 15 from the east, was originally laid out to run between Findlay and New Haven, a small town in Huron county. The road took its name from its eastern terminus. The New Haven road leaves state route No. 15 about five miles east of the city and continues due eastward.

IX

THE FIRST ROADSIDE PARK in the state of Ohio was constructed by the state highway department in Hancock county. It is known as "Eagle Creek Park" and is located about one mile south of Findlay at the junction of U. S. No. 68 and state route No. 15.

The park was established in 1936 at the suggestion of L. Ray Anspach, who had been a member of the staff of the Hancock county surveyor and later became connected with the state highway department as an engineer.

From this beginning, the state expanded its system of such parks over the state along main highways.

A plaque on the main building at the park recites the story of the establishment of the center.

X

THREE HIGHWAYS traversing Hancock county have names.

One is the Lincoln highway which is a coast-to-coast route across the United States. It is numbered U. S. 30-North and crosses southern Hancock county within a half mile of the southern boundary line of the county. It runs between Atlantic City, N. J. and Astoria, Ore., for 3,150 miles.

Another is the Benjamin Franklin highway — U. S. 224 — running between New Castle, Ind., and Huntington, Ind., for 286 miles.

The third is the Johnny Appleseed highway, which was so named by the state legislature to honor the famous planter of apple seeds in this area. It runs between Marysville, O., and Toledo through Findlay.

The old U. S. No. 25 through here, prior to the advent of the Interstate system, bore the name of Dixie highway. The old U. S. No. 25 is now a county highway. The Dixie highway stretched between the Canadian border and southern Florida. There is still a Dixie highway association in southern states and some southern roads, not on the Interstate system, still bear the name of the Dixie highway.

XI

THE EARLY OHIO ROADS—specifically, in 1804—were truly "hand made." In the records at Columbus is a carefully preserved legislative enactment of Feb. 17, 1804 prescribing stringent requirements for "opening and

regulating roads and highways," which might be termed "forced labor."

The law, which left little doubt as to the drastic need for roads, contained one section which read, in part;

"All male persons of the age of eighteen years and not exceeding fifty, who shall have resided thirty days in any township of this state, who are not a town charge, shall be liable yearly and every year, to do and perform three days' work on the public roads, under the direction of the supervisor."

Any able bodied male, who, upon a three-day notice, failed to appear "with such necessary and common articles of husbandry as the said supervisor shall have directed him to bring wherewith to labor, or having attended, shall refuse to obey the directions of the supervisor, or shall spend the day in idleness or inattention to the duty assigned him . . . shall forfeit, for every such neglect or refusal, the sum of one dollar."

This penalty was tempered only by a provision whereby persons moving from one district to another, were to be credited for services performed before transferring their residence.

The pay scale carried in the law itself, provided at a rate of \$1.50 a day for surveyors; \$1 for "viewers" for examining proposed routes, and 75 cents for supervisors, chain carriers and markers.

Chapter 11

Public Buildings Keep Pace With Progress of Community

I

THE EARLY SETTLERS of Findlay and Hancock county moved promptly to provide adequate facilities for the transaction of public business.

The original owners of the 156 lots which comprised the town of Findlay as first laid out by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory deeded 39 lots of the 156 to the county "for the purpose of erecting public buildings". The county commissioners proceeded to sell 27 of the lots in 1829 to obtain funds with which to help erect the necessary public buildings on the other lots. The sum of \$1,025.40 was realized from the sale.

The first "public building" that went up in the little settlement was a school. In 1827, a year before the county was formed, a log school house was erected on the northwest corner of Crawford and East streets, on a lot donated for that purpose. It was 18 feet square and was used for eight or nine years. It also served as a Court House, church and as a private residence. The first Court of Common Pleas was conducted in June, 1828, in the building.

County Commissioners on Dec. 5, 1831, ordered bids to be received for the first Court House. A contract was let for \$700 for a structure which was built at the southwest corner of South Main and West Crawford streets, where the Jones block now stands.

This continued as the Court House until a new building was erected on the site of the present Court House and occupied in 1842, costing \$7,953.

The present Court House was erected in the 1880's and was occupied in October, 1888. It was built at a cost of \$305,272. A statute of John Hancock, after whom the county is named, was bought for \$950 and erected atop the structure.

A county jail had been erected a year or so before the first Court House

was constructed. In 1830, County Commissioners ordered a county jail to be built, measuring 16 feet in width and 24 feet in length. The cost was \$250. It was erected on South Main street between West Crawford street and Court street.

In 1852, Commissioners decided to build a new county jail and a structure was erected just north of the present jail, on Broadway, for \$4,743. In 1879, the present jail was erected for \$5,000.

The county thus has had three Court Houses and three jails since its formation in 1828.

In 1867, the county voted on the question of building a county infirmary for the indigent of the county. Property was bought two and a half miles west of Findlay along the Blanchard river and a large structure erected. In 1915, the building was judged no longer suitable for infirmary purposes and an entirely new structure erected, after voters had approved a bond issue at the polls.

II

THE FIRST COUNTY FAIR was held in October, 1852, on rented grounds just north of the river on grounds which had been utilized as a brickyard. In 1859, eight acres of ground were bought at the northeast corner of South Blanchard street and Blanchard avenue and a fair conducted here, until 1868, when a new fair ground was acquired containing 29.4 acres in south Findlay, west of South Main street, and in the vicinity of West McPherson avenue.

The fair remained here until 1891, when a new site was purchased further south in an area that later was to become the Hosafros addition to Findlay, on the extreme south edge of Findlay.

Here the fair remained until around 1920, when it was removed to a new area north and east of the Country Club drive across the reservoir from Riverside park and extending through to Tiffin avenue. This area was the scene of a modern driving park for horse races, constructed by the Findlay Driving club, and a number of new buildings were erected to make the leased grounds highly attractive and ideally suited for fair purposes.

Difficulties, financially and otherwise, arose after a few years, and the fair was completely abandoned after the voters had expressed themselves at the polls as unfavorable to buying the site for a permanent fair grounds.

Hancock county was without a county fair for some years. Eventually, sentiment for the return of the fair developed and a new start was made with the purchase of the property on East Sandusky street, at the eastern edge of the city, in the 1930's. It is gradually being improved as a fair grounds, with the erection of new buildings.

The first cemetery in the little community was located on the east bank of Eagle creek between East Main Cross street and East Sandusky street. The records indicate that the Fort Findlay garrison started the graveyard when some of the soldiers died while at the fort. One history says that 60 soldiers died at the fort while it was maintained here.

Mrs. Matthew Reighly was the first white person to die in the town after the troops left. She was buried in the Eagle creek cemetery.

In 1860, the present Maple Grove cemetery came into being and has continued as the burial ground for the community ever since that time, with the St. Michael's Catholic church cemetery adjoining. The council of the city of Findlay ordered all bodies removed from the old burying ground to the new cemetery.

It was 1881 before the village was able to own its own Town Hall, rented quarters having been occupied prior to that time. A two-story brick structure was acquired on the site of the present municipal building and was transformed from a livery stable into a town building to house village offices.

This continued as the Town Hall until 1902, when the present City Hall was erected. In the old building were housed the town's fire fighting forces, as they continued to be in the new City Hall, until a new and modern central fire station was built on South Main street in 1959, after the voters had approved a tax levy for this purpose. The levy also provided for a third fire station on Tiffin avenue. The city's second fire station on North Main street was built in 1909.

III

THE ERECTION OF BUILDINGS to house the schools of the village has continued as population grew. A major step forward came in 1865 when voters approved a proposal to erect a brick school building known as the Central school on East Sandusky street. By 1860, the first school had been erected north of the river. Another building, the Taylor was erected on the north side in 1877, as that area of the city developed. In 1882 a building known as the Crawford School was built at the foot of West Crawford street.

With the coming of the oil and gas boom, more school buildings went up. Four new structures, known as the Detweiler, Howard, Strother and Bigelow were erected in 1887. The next year the Firmin building was erected and was followed by the McKee, Paxon, Huber and Adams.

A new Central High school was erected and occupied in 1901. This was located at the northwest corner of West Main Cross street and South Cory street. Prior to that high school students had met on the third floor of the Central school on East Sandusky street. The first high school class was graduated in 1873. A new Howard elementary building was erected in 1910.

Two more new buildings were erected in 1916. They were the Lincoln and Washington schools. When they were opened, the Central, Crawford and Taylor buildings were abandoned. The Gray building, which was the former Number Nine school and which stood on the site of the present Lincoln building, had been closed in 1911.

In 1925, the city saw the introduction of the junior high school system, with the erection of the J. C. Donnell and Glenwood junior high schools, one in south Findlay and the other in north Findlay. The Central High school

was extended west to South West street. The seventh, eighth and ninth graders were included in the junior high schools and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders in the senior high school. The site for the Donnell school was donated by the late J. C. Donnell.

In 1928, O. D. Donnell and his three sons, James, John and Dewey, presented the city with the beautiful J. C. Donnell memorial stadium, in memory of J. C. Donnell, who had been president of the Ohio Oil company (now Marathon) until his death in 1927. The gift included, as well, the grounds around the stadium, with the wading pool and tennis courts. Both the high school and Findlay College utilize the stadium.

The old portion of the Central High school was razed in 1939 and a new unit erected, which included a new auditorium, seating 1,500 people. Federal government funds helped finance the program.

A few years following World War II, the school district's voters authorized the construction of four elementary school buildings, the Whittier, McKinley, Jefferson and Northview. When these were occupied, the Bigelow, McKee, Huber and Firmin were abandoned as no longer suitable for school use. The Strother had been abandoned some years previously. Later the Huber building was transformed into a school administrative headquarters, while the Firmin was reopened after considerable overhauling. The Paxon building was abandoned early in the new century. The Detweiler was closed around 1950.

In 1955, the voters approved a new school building program, which provided for one new elementary school building, and the enlargement of some other elementary units, as well as additions to the two junior high schools.

In 1960, the voters authorized construction of a new senior high school, additions to the Northview, Jacobs and Jefferson elementary schools and other improvements. The new senior high school was opened for use in the fall of 1963, providing accommodations for 2,200 students. The auditorium in the new building was named the "R. L. Heminger auditorium," honoring the president of the Findlay Publishing company, owner of the Republican-Courier and Radio Station WFIN, for his civic leadership and his great interest in the cause of education.

The former senior high school became a third junior high school and was given the name "Central."

A major public office that is not political has been held by a woman in the community. Miss Zola D. Jacobs was superintendent of the Findlay public schools from 1952 to 1957. One of the new elementary schools is named in honor of Miss Jacobs, who was a teacher and then principal of the Glenwood junior high school for a number of years.

In 1964, voters of Hancock county approved a bond issue to construct school facilities for those who are retarded in the community. The new building, located on E. Sandusky street, is now in the course of construction. Mr. and Mrs. Tell Thompson donated the site for the school.

In 1965, the auditorium in the enlarged Lincoln school was named in honor of Lawrence Pugh, principal for many years who died early in that year.

IV

THE PRESENT SCHOOL STRUCTURES in the county outside of the county seat are large and commodious educational centers. Most of them were constructed in the 1920's and almost all have had additions since then to provide for the increasing enrollments.

Schools were quickly established in the various townships as they were formed in the early decades after the county was established in 1828. A list of the schools by townships in the 1870's follows:

Pleasant, 8; Portage, 6; Allen, 7; Cass, 6; Washington, 10; Blanchard, 10; Liberty, 8; Marion, 6; Biglick, 10; Union, 10; Eagle, 9; Jackson, 8; Amanda, 8; Orange, 9; Van Buren, 6; Madison, 8; Delaware, 8.

The first area to abandon the little one-room school plan of rural and village education in Hancock county was Union township. A centralized school as they were then described was erected at Mt. Cory in that township in 1910. Others followed in Mt. Blanchard, Arlington, Rawson, McComb, Vanlue, Van Buren, Liberty township and Arcadia. All were the result of the expressed wish of the voters at the polls. Benton Ridge joined the Liberty district some years ago.

District consolidations have changed the picture somewhat in recent years. The Mt. Cory and Rawson areas have been merged and a high school constructed about half way between the two towns, located on U. S. No. 25. The old schools in each town became elementary buildings, under the new program.

Mt. Blanchard, in 1959, became a part of a three-area district which also includes Forest and Wharton. A new high school for the combined district has been erected in Delaware township, Hancock county. The district is known as Riverdale.

The McComb and Hoytville school districts were combined in 1961.

V

A CHILDREN'S HOME was acquired by Hancock county in 1893. It was located in West Park at the south west corner of Bliss avenue and Morrical boulevard. In the middle 1920's voters of the county approved a proposal to build a new children's home. It is located on North Main street, between Stanley and Tioga avenues. It is used only as a receiving home. Most of the county's wards are housed in boarding homes over the county.

Hancock county became the owner of a hospital in the 1950's, as a result of action of the voters of the county. The structure previously used as a hospital had belonged to the city. It had become unsuited for hospital purposes and a bond issue to build a new hospital on a county basis received approval at the polls. A 175-bed hospital was erected on a site adjoining

the old hospital in south Findlay. The federal government furnished \$675,000.00 towards the cost, while the bond issue netted \$1,761,000.00. Other funds, approximately \$590,000, came from local business and professional men and from local industry, making an investment of over \$3,000,000.00 in the new institution. A private organization, the Blanchard Valley hospital association, operates the hospital under a lease from the county.

The county owns two other properties. One is a large structure, just north of the county jail, which had been erected and used by the Page Dairy company for some years. It was purchased by the county after the dairy company had moved elsewhere. The county has plans to eventually use the structure as a county jail in place of the present jail which grand juries in their reports have recommended should be replaced. The new county welfare department is now located in a part of the building. In 1960, the county bought a property on Lima avenue at the western edge of the city for county garage purposes. The layout includes a number of buildings suitable for such use. The previous garage had been located on Western avenue, near Lima avenue.

The city of Findlay installed a sewage disposal plant on the North River road across from Maple Grove cemetery in 1932. The plant was later expanded and enlarged and is now a modern unit in full conformity with state health and sanitary standards.

A municipal swimming pool was constructed in the 1935's adjoining Riverside park under the federal works progress administration program of depression days.

The city of Findlay owns over 100 acres of land which have been dedicated to park purposes. Adjoining the pool is Riverside park, the chief pleasure resort in the city.

The city of Findlay went into the waterworks business in the 1880's, when a water pumping station was built at the east end of Center street, near the river. A reservoir was constructed adjoining the waterworks. This was supplanted by a new and modern waterworks in 1931 erected on North Blanchard street. The city also owns a large reservoir east of Findlay in Marion township.

In 1963, the city built and opened a municipal automobile parking garage on East Crawford street, directly behind the First National Bank of Findlay. Additionally, the city owns a number of off-street parking lots in the business district. Fees from use of the garage and the lots handle the costs of these projects.

The city's present postoffice on West Main Cross street was erected in 1932. Previous to that the postoffice had been located in what is now the public library on Broadway. Prior to that the postoffice had occupied rented quarters where the Royal theater is now located on South Main street and before that it was in a building on West Sandusky street across from the First Methodist church.

The city voted a \$100,000 bond issue in the early 1930's for a public

library. A short time afterwards, the federal government was offering its old postoffice on Broadway for sale, with occupancy of the new postoffice on West Main Cross street. The Broadway building was bought by the city and transformed into a public library in 1935. The building has been enlarged several times since then. In earlier days the city library was located on the first floor of the court house.

VI

THE STATE OF OHIO has six facilities in Findlay and Hancock county involving the ownership of property, on behalf of the state.

The district headquarters of the state highway patrol are located in Findlay. They are housed in a modern building erected in the 1930's shortly after the patrol was established in Ohio. It is located at the extreme north end of Findlay.

The Ohio National Guard armory which was built by the state of Ohio some years ago is located on East Crawford street. Here are located the headquarters of Company C, of the National Guard. The site is the location of Findlay's first public school.

The Ohio department of natural resources has a district headquarters property in Findlay, located on Lima avenue, near the by-pass. Here are quartered district offices of the division of wildlife, division of forestry and division of parks.

The state has two highway garages within the area. One is situated on Lima ave., where is located a staff that looks after maintenance of state and federal highways, except the Interstate No. 75 system within Hancock county. The other garage, situated just west of the Interstate No. 75 route, on the west edge of the city between West Main Cross street and West Sandusky street, houses equipment for the use of the staff which maintains the Interstate No. 75 roadway in the county.

Van Buren lake in Allen township north of Findlay was opened in 1938 as a state recreation and park center. It consists of 136 acres of which 70 are water. Picnic and outing facilities are available at the lake area.

Public buildings in villages of Hancock county include a public library in McComb and a postoffice building in Van Buren, made possible by bequest in wills. Most villages have their town halls and townships their township houses.

Chapter 12

They Made Rich Contribution To Local Community

Findlay and Hancock county have been exceedingly fortunate in the possession over the years of men and women of outstanding and distinguished quality. They have made a rich and lasting contribution to the community's progress and well being, in addition to their constructive leadership in many instances beyond the boundaries of their home town. Below are the life stories of some of the most prominent of these individuals.

DR. CHARLES OESTERLEN

IF FINDLAY ever erects monuments honoring its pioneer leaders, prime consideration would most certainly be accorded Dr. Charles Oesterlen.

Dr. Oesterlen, a physician who migrated from his native Germany to the United States and eventually came to Findlay, truly merits the tribute inscribed on his Maple Grove cemetery monument, "He Laid the Foundation for His City's Advancement."

He was the originator of the idea that a large vein of natural gas was beneath the local community. He advocated tapping this source of energy for many long years. He was laughed at and his idea was ridiculed. But he persisted in maintaining he was right, and he was. His claims eventually found favor and gas was discovered. Findlay's real growth and development began with this fortunate discovery in 1884.

Dr. Oesterlen was born in Weinsburg, Germany Oct. 5, 1807. He attended school in his native country. He was graduated from medical school in Germany and in 1812 decided to migrate to America. He travelled in various sections of the country for a time and eventually settled in Ashland, Ohio, in 1834.

On Sept. 30, 1836, he came to Findlay, which was only a village in

the wilderness then with less than 500 settlers. He was only the third doctor to venture into the new country.

He built a substantial practice and at the same time became greatly interested in the development of the community in which he had cast his lot. He became a member of the village council and served for a decade and a half, helping steer the pioneer course of the new town.

In 1871, he was elected to the state legislature to represent Hancock county, holding this office for one term of two years.

AS EARLY AS 1850, Dr. Oesterlen began to argue that a great natural gas deposit was beneath the city and could be developed by drilling through the earth and rock. This was almost a decade before Col. Edward Drake's oil well made history at Titusville, Penna., becoming the first petroleum discovery.

He became so insistent, as a matter of fact, that some people thought he had lost his mental balance, the records show.

While serving in the state legislature at Columbus, Dr. Oesterlen visited the office of the state geologist and informed that official and his associates of his belief. They did not share his opinions and frankly told him so. They insisted they had surveyed all of Northwestern Ohio and found nothing to substantiate his claims. They were of the belief that whatever natural gas existed at Findlay came from Michigan underneath the bed of Lake Erie and they held that there was not sufficient gas to pay for sinking any wells.

The Findlay physician-legislator plainly told them they were mistaken and that time would prove him correct.

Dr. Oesterlen, however, had difficulty in persuading his fellow townsmen to venture any money in trying to demonstrate the truth of his claims. Over several decades, they scorned his beliefs and refused to help him finance drilling operations.

Finally, however, he did succeed in interesting a group of his friends and others to go along. Early in 1884, he was able to successfully convince a number of local citizens and business men to join him in drilling for gas. The Findlay Natural Gas company was formed on April 18, 1884. Articles of incorporation were filed in the secretary of state's office at Columbus. The capital stock of \$5,000 was divided into 100 shares worth \$50 each.

An agreement was reached to drill immediately and a Bradford, Pa., drilling firm was engaged to put down the well, which was to be located on Dr. Oesterlen's farm, which is now the Hancock county fair grounds. A committee of three stockholders — not including Dr. Oesterlen — picked the site.

At a depth of 314 feet, the first vein of gas was found, another at 516 feet, and a third at 618, while oil was found at 718 feet. A general bed of gas was tapped at 1,092 feet. Drilling continued until a depth of 1,648 feet was reached on Dec. 6, 1884. The well's cost was \$2,825.

Dr. Oesterlen thus proved his case. Instead of ridicule, he was now the city's great benefactor, although it was a few years before the full effect of the discovery of 1884 was to be realized. It was the great Karg well, which came in Jan. 25, 1886, on the banks of the Blanchard river, that demonstrated the vast quantity of the supply of natural gas beneath the city and that sparked the ensuing boom. But behind it all was Dr. Oesterlen's persistence that made possible the initial discovery. He was the one to whom credit was due for all that followed.

DR. OESTERLEN was married in 1838 to Amelia Tritch, whose father Leonard Tritch also had come to Hancock county in the 1830's. They had no children, but they took into their home a brother and a sister of Mrs. Oesterlen and reared them. The brother was Parlee Tritch, who later was sheriff of Hancock county and who also served as coroner. He was the father of the late Dr. J. C. Tritch, a prominent Findlay surgeon and physician for many years. The sister married Dr. William M. Detwiler, who practiced medicine here for a number of years, having studied under Dr. Oesterlen.

Mrs. Oesterlen founded the home for orphans at Springfield, Ohio, which bears her name. It is a Lutheran institution.

Dr. Oesterlen died in January 1889, a little over four years after his famous well "came in," on that December day in 1844 that signaled the beginning of a new day for his home community. An impressive monument marks his grave in Maple Grove cemetery.

A movement was afoot at one time in Findlay to erect a monument in his honor, in recognition of what he had achieved for his fellow townsmen. It would have been an appropriate tribute to his memory.

* * *

DAVID R. LOCKE

A FINDLAY NEWSPAPER EDITOR brought national attention and fame to his home town during the Civil war period by the articles which he wrote and published in the paper every week for most of the conflict's duration.

He was David R. Locke, who arrived in Findlay just before the outbreak of the war, remained here all through the four years of the hostilities and then moved to Toledo a few months after the war's close.

In a speech in Cooper Union, New York city, at the close of the war, George S. Boutwell, secretary of the Treasury under President Lincoln, said that the crushing of the rebellion could be credited to three forces, the Army, the Navy and the Nasby letters. The letters were the work of Locke.

Mr. Locke came to Findlay in 1861 from Bucyrus, where he had been in the newspaper business. The Weekly Jeffersonian, which had been established as The Home Companion in Findlay in the 1850's, had suspended publication and Mr. Locke revived it upon coming here. He started writing the Nasby letters soon after coming to Findlay. The Civil war was in progress and that provided the theme for his famous letters.

A native of Broome county, New York, Mr. Locke had been born Sept. 20, 1833. He learned the printing trade at an early age and in 1852 came to Ohio to establish the Advertiser at Plymouth, a small town north of Mansfield, Ohio. He later moved to Mansfield, Bellefontaine and then Bucyrus, engaging in the newspaper business in each city for a time.

The first Nasby letter was dated March 21, 1861. At the time the Jeffersonian office was located at the northeast corner of South Main Street and East Main Cross Street. He composed all the letters while standing at the type case, never reducing them to writing before he picked the type out of their respective boxes.

He wrote under the name of "Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby." The "Nasby" was taken from a famous 17th century battle fought at "Naseby" England in the Civil war during the reign of Charles I, Locke dropping the "e" for some reason. "Petroleum" became the author's first name probably because oil had just been first discovered a few years before in Pennsylvania and "Vesuvius" was inserted as the middle name for the sake of euphony.

THE NASBY LETTERS were masterpieces of ridicule. Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby, a red-nosed, hard-drinking, self-seeking Copperhead sought to defend the southern cause in his letters. But his defense and his arguments were made so ridiculous by Locke that they rendered the north incalculable benefit. He made the enemy a definite individual for the boys in blue.

Charles Sumner, the noted senator from Massachusetts, in an introduction to a volume of Nasby letters published in 1872, commented on President Lincoln's fondness for the Nasby letters.

"Of all the publications during the war," wrote the senator, "none had such charm for Lincoln as the Nasby letters." He read every letter and kept them within easy reach for refreshment.

It was Senator Sumner who said President Lincoln once remarked in his presence "for the genius to write these things I would gladly give up my office."

In the Library of Congress at Washington, is displayed a copy of Lincoln's Nasby letters. Some of the pages are burned slightly at the edges. A note explains that he held them close to a candle at times while reading them and some of the pages were singed by the flames. He is said to have read some of the letters just before starting for Ford's theater the night of his assassination.

The press upon which the Jeffersonian of Locke's time was printed is still in Findlay. It is a hand-operated press and belongs to The Findlay Publishing company, publishers of the Republican-Courier. It stands in the lobby of The Findlay Printing and Supply company's building at 318 West Sandusky Street.

The Nasby letters were undoubtedly re-printed in some kind of pamphlet form during the war, because they were distributed to the Union forces, which looked forward eagerly to the regular appearance of the letters, we are told.

In 1865, Locke decided to leave Findlay and go to Toledo, where he bought the Toledo Blade. In addition to his editorial duties he became a platform lecturer and toured the United States as a contemporary of Josh Billings and Mark Twain.

He passed away Feb. 15, 1888 in Toledo at the age of 54.

* * *

JOHN W. ZELLER AND JOHN F. SMITH

FOR A PERIOD of some 40 years, the educational careers of Findlay youth were guided and molded largely by two men of unusual and distinctive stature in the school field. They were the heads of the Findlay public school system during that period and for a good share of the time were associated with each other in the direction and supervision of public education in the community. They left a deep imprint upon the lives of the hundreds of young people who came under their beneficent influence.

The two individuals were John W. Zeller and John F. Smith. Mr. Zeller became superintendent of the Findlay public schools in 1877 and continued to hold that post until 1909, when he was elected by the voters of Ohio to the position of Commissioner of Common Schools. He was succeeded as superintendent by Mr. Smith, who had become principal of the Findlay high school in 1888. He served in the superintendency until 1917. Mr. Zeller thus served the local schools for a period of 32 years and Mr. Smith 29 years. Their combined service covered four decades.

The two men were in reality giants in the educational field. They were large in physical stature and in their educational capacities and qualifications, as well. They guided the local school system successfully through its formative years and built a strong foundation for its future growth and development. They combined administrative talents with a deep interest in the academic field and under their leadership, the Findlay schools moved forward steadily through the 40-year period they were at the helm. They were a "natural team" for the important task of educating the youth of the community during those many years in which their careers here overlapped.

Mr. Zeller was a native of Hancock county. He was born in 1849 in Union township near Mt. Cory. He began to teach country school early in his life and after six years as a teacher entered the newly opened Ohio Normal school at Ada, graduating in the institution's first class in 1874. He became a school superintendent in Logan county and later studied at Mt. Union College at Alliance and also at the University of Michigan and at Findlay College.

When he was named superintendent of the Findlay public schools in 1877, he was the sixth to hold that position. The union school district had been formed here in 1853 and five had preceeded him as head of the system, which, when he took charge, consisted of three buildings and 16 teachers with 960 pupils. The district had only been graded four years before he became superintendent, the first graduating class receiving its diplomas from the new high school in 1873.

The Central, Crawford and Taylor buildings were the only ones in the union school district at that time. Another school, known as Number Nine, was conducted as a separate district, but later (in the 1880's) was absorbed into the union system.

In 1887, the local school system and its superintendent faced a genuine crisis. The oil and gas boom of that era brought hundreds of newcomers to the community and when schools were ready to start in the fall of 1887, there were some 600 additional pupils to be provided for. More buildings were erected and facilities expanded to provide for the additional students, under Mr. Zeller's leadership.

During the Zeller administration, the city solved a genuine problem with regard to the high school. The need for a separate structure to house the high school was keenly felt and the voters authorized the erection of a high school in 1900. Up to that time, high school classes had met in the old Central building on East Sandusky Street. At the time of its construction, Findlay's new high school was regarded as a model of such educational progress and national attention was focused upon the city's step forward in this field.

MR. ZELLER's abilities and record here brought state-wide interest and in 1908, he was elected to the state school commissionership by a substantial margin for a term starting in 1909. At that time, Ohio elected its state school head by popular vote. Since then the system has been changed and the state board of education chooses the state school head.

Following his tenure in the state position, Mr. Zeller became superintendent of the Lucas county public schools and later became a member of the faculty of Bowling Green State University. He passed away not many years after his retirement from the latter post.

During his career here, Mr. Zeller was actively identified with civic affairs and was one of the small group of men who pioneered in the development of the first gas well, which opened up the field here and led to the great boom of the late 1880's.

His 32 years as head of the local schools constitute the longest tenure record of any school superintendent, locally. He suffered a serious illness in the last few years of his school career here, losing one of his lower limbs, but this did not interfere with his school activities and his work to any extent.

MR. SMITH, who succeeded Mr. Zeller in the superintendency, came to Findlay at the height of the oil and gas boom in 1888. He was a graduate of Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio.

He was the 11th to serve as principal of Findlay high school, the records reveal. His long service in the principalship enabled him to undertake the superintendency in 1909, with a background of experience and training that fitted him well for the higher post.

During the period of his leadership of the local schools, two new elementary school buildings, the Lincoln and Washington, were constructed.

They were modern type educational structures and placed Findlay in the forefront of Ohio communities with up-to-date facilities, educationally. They replaced several older buildings which were outmoded and no longer fit for school use.

During these years, the enrollment of the senior high school was expanding rapidly and the building erected only a decade earlier could no longer accommodate all the students. So, freshmen were housed in a portion of the new Lincoln and Washington elementary buildings, leaving only the three upper classes in the high school.

After 1911, Mr. Smith combined the duties of superintendent and principal for a time, with an assistant to help handle the increased duties. Mr. Smith's service as head of the local school system closed in 1917, when he announced that he would not seek reelection. His death occurred in 1923 after five years of suffering from paralysis.

Mr. Smith's 29 years in the local schools, both as principal and superintendent, were exceedingly active ones, during which he gave a full measure of devotion to the cause of educating the youth of the community.

He was an educator of unusually high standards. His challenge to the students under his guidance was a stirring and spirited one. He had no patience with the laggard or the idler. He felt that every student should respond with his best as the avenues of educational opportunities unfolded before him.

Mr. Smith's students recall his great interest in the field of classical education and the enrichment he gave the local school's courses and program during the long period when he was principal and later as superintendent. He was a true educator who left never-to-be-forgotten memories of his inspiring leadership of Findlay high school over so long a period of time.

He was interested, as was Mr. Zeller, in the city's affairs and progress and was active in church and business circles over the long years of his career, locally.

Strangely enough, a tragedy similar to that experience by Mr. Zeller afflicted the Smith family, when an only son Walter lost a lower limb, while a student in the high school here. The two suffered the loss of their limbs within a short time of each other. The son's later death was a severe blow to Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

The 40-year period of the Zeller-Smith educational regime will long live as a memorable era in the history of the Findlay public schools.

* * *

J. C. DONNELL

THE LIFE STORY of James C. Donnell, president of The Ohio Oil company (now Marathon Oil company) from 1911 to 1927 is the impressive one of an emigrant lad, who, in a new land, found success through his resourcefulness, his energy and his capacity for leadership.

He was a native of Ireland and came to the United States when only a small boy. His first home in the new country was in New York state.

He became interested in oil and its development early in life and it was in this field that he spent his entire life, becoming one of the outstanding leaders of the nation in the field of petroleum.

Findlay owes much to J. C. Donnell and to his son, O. D. Donnell, who followed him in the presidency. It was due to their efforts that Findlay became the home of the company and continued to be the seat of the general offices. The beneficent results for Findlay that have flowed from this course are beyond measurement.

James C. Donnell started at the bottom. His father died when the lad was but 12 years old. The widow was left with five children, of whom James was the youngest. At his father's death, he went to live with a neighbor family to ease the burden on the mother. At an early age he decided to strike out for himself and obtained a job as an oil field teamster. It was from this humble beginning that he rose to become one of the nation's leaders in the petroleum business. When he died in 1927, he was credited with having drilled over 42,000 producing oil and gas wells during his life time.

Mr. Donnell was born in 1854 and his family came to the United States a few years later, settling in the east. When he was 18 years old, he started work in the oil business in Pennsylvania. His only son, Otto D. Donnell, was born in Allentown, N. Y. in 1883. His wife died a few years later and in 1886, Mr. Donnell moved to Ohio. There he subsequently married Miss Elizabeth Meeks, whose father, the late Rev. John Meeks, had been pastor of the First Presbyterian church for a long period here.

PRIOR to moving to Ohio, Mr. Donnell engaged in the oil business in the Bradford, Pa. field, when it first opened up, drilling wells for himself and contracting and drilling for others, as well. When the oil boom in Ohio began in 1886, he decided to move to this state. He operated on his own account for a while in Ohio and then went to Indiana for the Standard Oil interests and drilled the first big gas well in that state.

In August, 1887, the Ohio Oil company was formed by Lima parties and shortly afterwards, when the stock of the company was purchased by Standard, Mr. Donnell was elected a director. Acting in the capacity of field manager for the company, Mr. Donnell was soon recognized as the most prominent oil man in the Trenton Rock field and succeeded in acquiring leases and developing them to the extent that within a short time, the Ohio Oil company was producing 50 per cent of the entire output of the field. The Indiana field was entered at the same time with like success.

In 1900, Mr. Donnell was elected vice-president and general manager. He held the title of general manager until his death in 1927. In 1903, when the Illinois oil field opened up, he became active there, also.

In September, 1911, at the time of the dissolution of the Standard, Mr. Donnell was elected president of the Ohio Oil company and he proceeded at once to reorganize the company and extend its operations. The company

entered the Wyoming field, later buying the Mid-Kansas Oil and Gas company and adding to its holdings generally.

Mr. Donnell's outstanding talents were widely recognized in the petroleum business and his advice and counsel were widely sought. He went to California in 1907 and made a valuable contribution to the development of the oil business there.

He went abroad several times on oil missions. He made a trip to Romania and helped with the acquisition of oil properties for the Standard Oil company of New Jersey. He played an important part in the selection of lands in Peru in 1916 and was an advisor with regard to the purchase of oil properties in Colombia oil fields. He assisted in the organization of the Andian Corp. which laid a 350-mile pipeline into the interior of Colombia and was a director of that corporation.

In the 1920's, the company moved into the marketing field through the purchase of the Lincoln properties in Illinois, under his leadership.

Throughout his career, he guided the operations and development of the company on a basis that made it one of the major petroleum concerns of the nation.

In World War I, he held a post of high importance in the federal government's petroleum organization and he made an invaluable contribution to the winning of the war through his efforts in this area.

IN HIS BOOK "Portrait in Oil," the author, Hartzell Spence, speaks of Mr. Donnell as follows in the opening chapter of his volume which constitutes the history of Marathon Oil company:

"Mr. Donnell was a first-generation oil man, a frontiersman, in a new industry: tough, rugged, determined, imaginative. His nose could sniff petroleum a thousand feet underground, and his native ingenuity unlocked the oil from its sandy depths, surfaced it and sold it profitably. To him, the oil industry was at once a livelihood, an ambition, a dream, a game: a way of life. He needed nothing else."

Locally, Mr. Donnell was actively interested in the community's development and progress. He served as president of the First National Bank at one time. He served as chairman of the first and second Liberty Loan bond campaigns in Hancock county during World War I. He was chairman of the building committee when the First Presbyterian church was built shortly after the turn of the century at the southwest corner of S. Main St. and W. Lincoln St.

He always was actively interested in the community's educational program and when the junior high school system was inaugurated in 1923, he donated the site for the J. C. Donnell junior high school, located on Baldwin Ave. The building was named for him, in recognition of his gift and his long-time interest in the local schools.

Mr. Donnell was a member of the Findlay Rotary club and was one of the organizers of the Findlay Country club.

Mr. Donnell passed away in January, 1927 at the age of 72 years.

OTTO D. DONNELL

A DISTINGUISHED CAREER of business leadership, humanitarianism, and civic interest marked the life of Otto Dewey Donnell, whose six decades of residence in Findlay brought rich contributions to the welfare of his fellow townsmen.

When he passed away in 1961 at the age of 77, he was acclaimed by many as a leader whose life had meant more to his home community than any single individual who ever resided here. It was a deserved tribute.

His business life was spent in the service of what was then The Ohio Oil company, now Marathon Oil company. He was the firm's president from 1927 to 1948, retiring in the latter year. He had succeeded his father, the late J. C. Donnell, as head of the company in 1927. His own son, J. C. Donnell II, followed him in the presidency, then, in 1948.

He was a native of Allentown, N. Y., where he was born Sept. 26, 1883. His mother died when he was a young lad and while his father became active in the oil fields of western Pennsylvania and then northwestern Ohio, he stayed in New York state with relatives until the father became established in Findlay in the early 1890's. He then came to Findlay to spend the rest of his life.

He received his early education in the Findlay public schools, then went to Case School of Applied Science, now Case Institute of Technology, at Cleveland, receiving his bachelor of science degree in 1906.

While yet in the local schools, he began his career with the oil company, working as an office boy at first, during vacation periods. His permanent employment with the company began in 1906 as a mechanical engineer with the pipe line department at Marshall, Ill. He subsequently returned to Findlay and in 1910 he was elected to the board of directors of the company, as well as becoming assistant general manager. In 1913, he became a vice-president and in 1922 was elected treasurer.

On Feb. 7, 1927, Mr. Donnell was elected president and general manager. As its new head, Mr. Donnell led the company in its continued growth and expansion. A distinguishing feature of his career was the deep personal interest he manifested in the employes of the company. Various welfare programs were introduced under his guidance at different times.

MR. DONNELL was a prominent leader in the petroleum industry and was treasurer of the American Petroleum Institute for some time. In 1953, he was the recipient of the organization's gold medal award, given in recognition of distinguished service.

During World War II, he served as a member of the petroleum industry war council. He also was chairman of the production committee for district II, comprising 15 mid-western states.

In addition to his oil interests, Mr. Donnell served as a member of the board of directors of the Erie railroad, among other responsibilities.

He was chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Findlay for a number of years.

His deep and abiding interest in his home community found expression in various ways. He gave liberally of his time and his resources in the advancement of the city's interests and its welfare. No cause which involved the community's progress was too small or too large to engage his attention and he always found time to give leadership or encouragement to all those movements which helped promote the city's prestige.

From the days when as a high school student he organized and led the community movement to make available the old athletic field along the Blanchard river just east of Main St. for high school football and other games, he continued on through the years as a benefactor of his home town which to him constituted the ideal small American city.

The schools of the city were an especial object of his constant interest and attention. He served on the Findlay board of education from 1915 to 1919 and was president for two years. The Washington and Lincoln elementary buildings were erected during his incumbency on the board.

IN MEMORY of his father, the late J. C. Donnell, he and his three sons gave to the city the beautiful Donnell Memorial Stadium in 1928. The large stadium and the recreation area adjacent, including the popular wading pool for youngsters and the tennis courts which he made possible constitute a civic asset which the community values highly.

He was greatly interested in the Findlay Young Men's Christian association over the years and his substantial contributions meant much in the broad program available. He was a member of the international committee of the 'Y' for a number of years.

Mr. Donnell presented to the hospital here an extensive wing in 1939, when needs had badly outgrown facilities. He was one of the leaders in the movement for a new hospital later on in the 1950's.

For many years he was an active leader in the Boy Scout movement. He was the recipient of the Silver Beaver award in 1937 and the Silver Antelope award in 1944, in recognition of his service to the scouting movement.

He was one of the organizers of the Findlay Country club in 1908 and served as its president at one time. He also was one of those who formed the Findlay Automobile club.

Mr. Donnell an active member of the Masonic lodge and in 1942 received the highest honor in the order when he was crowned a 33rd degree Mason.

His annual railroad and golf parties, held here each June during the twenties and thirties brought large numbers of railroad presidents, petroleum company heads and other well known business executives to Findlay. Many came in their special railroad cars.

HE WAS A CHARTER MEMBER of the Findlay Rotary club, when it was formed in 1920. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi college fraternity. He served as a delegate to two national Republican party conventions from the 8th congressional district.

He was a member of the Presbyterian church and held various church posts during his lifetime.

During Findlay's Golden Celebration of Oil and Gas in 1937, he served as president of the corporation which conducted the event, signaling the passage of a half century since the city's great oil and gas boom.

During the depression of the 1930's, Governor George White appointed Mr. Donnell as a member of the state board to have charge of assisting communities hard hit by financial difficulties.

Twice, Mr. Donnell was honored at testimonial events in his home community. In the fall of 1937, a community dinner at the Elks' Home paid tribute to his public spiritedness and to his local leadership. In 1948, upon the occasion of his retirement from active business life, he was again honored at a dinner by heads of various local civic organizations.

"His deep and sincere love of his home community and his pride in its attractiveness are well known to us all," read the tribute which was paid to him at the 1948 event. "He has set an example of community interest that will always serve as a stimulating influence among us. We are truly and genuinely grateful to him."

Mr. Donnell in 1909, married Miss Glenn McClelland, of Findlay, who survives together with their three sons, J. C. Donnell II, John R. Donnell and Otto Dewey Donnell.

* * *

COL. RALPH D. COLE

A FOUNDER of the American Legion, a federal and state lawmaker, chairman of the National Republican Speakers' bureau, legal counsel of the U. S. Comptroller of the Currency, distinguished orator, lawyer and statesman.

These were some of the accomplishments that formed the life record of Col. Ralph D. Cole, eminent son of Hancock county, who carried the name of his native heath far in the opening decades of the 20th century.

He almost became governor of the state of Ohio, losing out in a very narrow political contest. He was offered American diplomatic posts of high honor in the course of his busy and active life.

He met a tragic death. Injuries received in an automobile accident in eastern Ohio while serving as state commander of the American Legion proved fatal. He was headed for the national commandership of the veterans' organization, in the opinion of his many friends, when death cut short his brilliant career.

Col. Cole was born Nov. 18, 1873 in Vanlue. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cole. He was the 13th of 17 children in the family.

He attended Findlay College, graduating in 1895, and later went to Ohio Northern University at Ada for his law work. He taught country school some of the time while also going to college.

After completing his law course, Col. Cole began to practice in the office of Jason Blackford, well known Findlay attorney. At one time he was associated with a Columbus legal firm and at the time of his death his law partner was Clyde Deeds, of Toledo.

He entered public life early, becoming deputy clerk of courts in Hancock county. He was elected as Hancock county's representative in the state legislature at the age of 26 in 1899, serving two terms of two years each.

In 1904, Col. Cole was elected to Congress from the 8th Ohio district. He served three terms of two years each, losing the nomination for a fourth term to Frank B. Willis, of Ada, who later became governor of Ohio and United States senator.

When Ohio elected its first member of the senate of the United States by popular vote in 1914 — such officials had previously been named by the legislative bodies of the various states, until a constitutional amendment substituted popular election — Col. Cole became a candidate for the Republican nomination, but lost out to Warren G. Harding, of Marion, who won the subsequent November election and in 1921 became president. The third contender for the party nomination in the spring primary had been Joseph B. Foraker, of Cincinnati, who had served the state as governor and senator in previous years.

He went to San Francisco in 1915 to represent the Ohio governor at the opening of the Ohio building at the new exposition there.

IN 1917, Col. Cole became a major in the 37th Ohio division, which was made up of the Ohio National Guard, and served in Belgium and France with the division. He was the head of the division's military police. He was later promoted to a lieutenant-colonel's rank. Following the war, he was co-author of a history of the division's World War I record and experiences. He received the order of the purple heart in connection with his war service.

While in France, Col. Cole was one of the small group which met Feb. 16, 1919 in Paris to launch the organization which was to become the American Legion. He was one of 20 officers invited to participate in this historic event, which saw the Legion's birth. He represented the 37th Division.

The Legion post in Findlay is named for him, in recognition of his role in the founding of the veterans' organization. It is the third Legion post to have been chartered in Ohio.

In 1920, Col. Cole became a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Ohio. He carried 62 of the state's 88 counties in a spirited contest with Mayor Harry L. Davis, of Cleveland, who won the nomination by a margin of only a couple thousand votes, later winning the election in the November balloting.

During the administration of President Harding in the early 1920's, Col. Cole was offered the ambassadorship to Belgium. He declined the offer, however, informing the president that while he appreciated the honor such posts were for those of greater financial means. He also declined the governorships of Alaska and the Panama Canal Zone. He had served as legal counsel for the U. S. Comptroller of the Currency at Washington for a time during President William Howard Taft's administration.

Several years after the war, Col. Cole went to Belgium to speak at the dedication of a monument to Ohio's soldier dead, addressing an audience of 25,000 Belgians.

He was in great demand as a public speaker. His ability as an orator was widely recognized. He was an active Republican campaign speaker and at one time headed the national party speakers' bureau.

Col. Cole was an early advocate of the cause of good roads in Ohio and served as Ohio's spokesman in the development of the Dixie highway between Michigan and Florida through the Buckeye state and Hancock county. It was due largely to his energetic efforts that the long route was established and that Hancock county's portion of the system became one of the first sections to be paved in the late 1910's.

A brother, R. Clinton Cole, also an orator of unusual talent, served the 8th Ohio congressional district at Washington as its representative, too. Like his brother, he also served three terms, which ran from 1919 to 1925.

Col. Cole's wife was the former Miss Blanche Davis, of Findlay, who, with a son Ralph D. Cole, Jr., survives him. The son, a Findlay attorney, has followed his father's footsteps to Columbus where he now serves as Hancock county's representative in the general assembly.

Col. Cole's death occurred on Oct. 15, 1932. To his funeral in Findlay, came color guards and other representatives of all the state's American Legion posts. Governor George White and his staff as well as other Ohio dignitaries also were here.

The state Legion posts erected an imposing monument over his grave in Maple Grove cemetery. The funds were raised under the leadership of his successor as state commander, Joseph V. Patterson, who was named to complete his term.

* * *

BEECHER W. WALTERMIRE

THE FIELDS of literature, oratory law, and politics combined to prove attractive to one of Findlay's prominent citizens around the turn of the century. As a consequence, he gained a state-wide recognition that brought acclaim to himself and honor to his home community.

Beecher W. Waltermire's literary efforts won him widespread attention. One of his books of poetry is in the Findlay public library. As a public speaker, he was in great demand because of his inspirational messages. In the political and governmental realm, he served as a mayor of Findlay, he

was the Republican party's candidate for lieutenant governor in 1912 and he later served as a member of the Ohio public utilities commission. As a lawyer, he was a brilliant pleader at the bar.

He spent most of his life in Findlay, although a native of Missouri. In his later life, he moved to Columbus when he became a member of the utilities commission and afterwards practiced law there, until his death in 1932.

His book of poems, entitled "Buckeye Ballads" holds high interest. The initial poem in the volume "When We Struck Ile" was a favorite with all. It told the fascinating story of a farmer who suddenly became wealthy when oil was found on his land and whose family insisted on "putting on the dog," so to speak, much to the old gentleman's dislike. Mr. Waltermire frequently gave readings from his poems and this was always the one that held top priority.

Mr. Waltermire was born in 1858 in Sedalia, Mo., two years after his parents had moved there from Morrow county, Ohio. He was left an orphan at the age of four years, his mother dying within a few months after his father had succumbed to wounds received in a battle in the Civil War. His father was an officer of the seventh regiment, Missouri militia and died in 1862 in an army hospital.

The son was brought back to Ohio following his mother's death and made his home for a year with his grand-parents on a farm in Morrow county. The greater part of his youth, however, was spent on a farm not far from Forest. After he completed his common school education, the young man entered Ohio Northern University at Ada and was graduated in 1876 at the early age of 18.

FOR THREE YEARS after his graduation, Mr. Waltermire taught in rural schools near Forest, carrying with him to and from school various law books which he had borrowed from attorneys and spending every spare moment available in study. He had determined to enter the practice of the law and made the most of every opportunity to acquire a legal knowledge. He studied law between recitations of classes in his school and studied in the mornings and evenings after he had aided with the farm work.

At the first state bar examination held after he attained his majority, Mr. Waltermire was admitted to the practice and immediately opened an office in Forest where he remained for about seven years. He then went to Kenton where he entered a partnership with the late Judge Seney, but withdrew from the partnership when the judge was elected to the circuit bench.

About a year later, attracted by the natural gas boom in Findlay, Mr. Waltermire came to Findlay and opened a law office. That was in 1888 and four years later he became well enough known to be elected mayor of the city, which was still in the prime of her boom days' glory. He served only one term, being defeated for re-election. He then resumed his practice of law.

He subsequently served as a member of the board of public safety — a municipal agency since abolished by law — and in 1911 was appointed director of public safety by Mayor E. Lincoln Groves.

He was nominated by the Ohio Republican party in 1912 for lieutenant-governor, but lost with the rest of the G.O.P. ticket when the Democrats swept the state and nation in the Republican party Taft-Roosevelt split.

Mr. Waltermire later was appointed by Governor Frank B. Willis as a member of the state public utilities commission, serving a six-year term. He entered the practice of law in Columbus after completing his term on the state commission.

While a resident of Findlay, he was an active member of the First Methodist church and was the teacher of the men's Brotherhood class for many years.

THE ADVENTURES OF A SKELETON, a wierd tale of the fortunes of a man who chanced to fall into an abandoned gas well, landing in the center of the earth, was the first literary production of Mr. Waltermire. He sold the story to the Yankee Blade, a Boston publication and it was printed in serial form. The Blade's editor told the author of the story that the Blade, one of the leading home publications of the country, found that "The Adventures of a Skeleton" was one of the most popular stories the paper had ever printed. The story was afterwards printed in book form and had a large sale.

The lawyer-author's next story was "Buendo Wal Wido" which appeared serially in the same publication and in 1893, his third long story "Around the Wigwams of the Wyandots" made its appearance. After its publication in the Boston paper, the book rights were purchased by a Chicago publishing house.

The last of the longer stories written by Mr. Waltermire was "Eulala, Queen of the Gold Mines," written expressly for the old Morning Republican in Findlay. It attracted wide attention and interest and formed a unique feature in that prizes were offered for the best original solution of the mystery tangle which the author so cleverly wove through the story and then unraveled in the last chapter.

In this story, the author anticipated by several years the perfection of the airship and sent his hero to the Klondike in search of gold in a monster aircraft, such as was then considered the wild dream of inventors, but which has now become a reality.

Because of his remarkable literary talent and his unusual power as an orator, Mr. Waltermire was a most popular public speaker and appeared on many platforms. He was on the Redpath Chautauqua circuit for some years. One of his last addresses in Findlay was in 1932 when he returned from Columbus to give a tribute to George Washington at the First Methodist church in connection with the 200th anniversary of the first president's birth. With no apparent effort, he was able, merely by the magnetic charm of his

clear, well-modulated tones, to bring an audience from hilarious laughter to sympathetic tears within a moment's time.

Beecher W. Waltermire's talents were many and his contribution to his fellow man was indeed a rich one.

A daughter, Mrs. Eloise Grove, resides in Dallas, Texas.

* * *

DR. HELEN F. BARNES

DR. HELEN F. BARNES, whose home was in Findlay for much of her life span, probably lived and worked in more communities in Ohio, more states in the United States and more countries of the world than anyone else who ever resided in Findlay.

She was one of the early leaders of the Young Women's Christian Association and it was this cause that took her to the far corners of the earth during her long lifetime. She had other interests, too, but this was the object of her chief devotion over the years. She was in her 90th year when she died in 1953.

Dr. Barnes was the first national industrial secretary of the Y.W.C.A., serving from 1900 to 1907. She later became the first national country secretary and was subsequently appointed to organize Y.W.C.A. work in Australia and New Zealand. She was the first national Y.W.C.A. secretary in those countries, serving from 1911 to 1917, when the first World War curtailed the program.

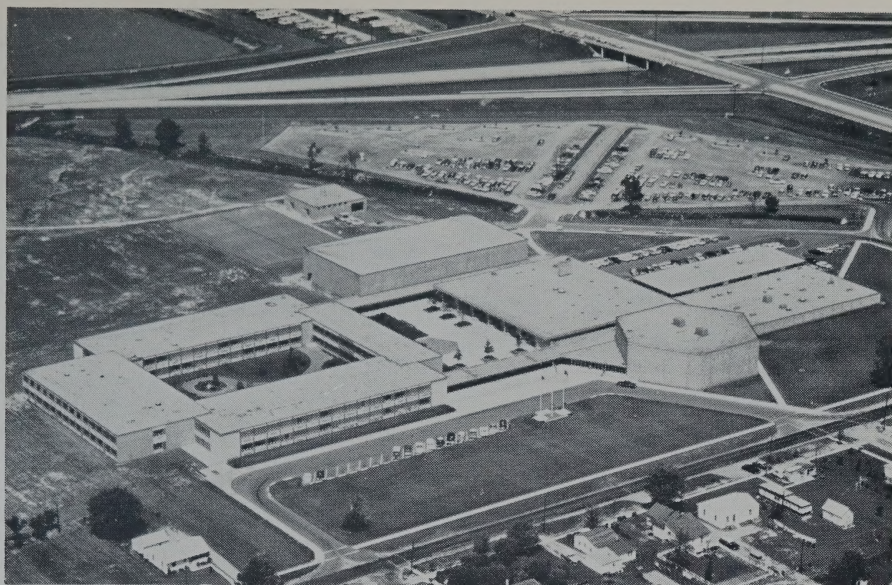
A native of Ottawa, she was a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Adam C. Barnes, her father having been a Methodist circuit preacher. The family came to Findlay some years later when her father was located here in his ministerial work.

While her father was a minister, she lived in Ottawa, Wapakoneta, Delta, Egerton, Mt. Blanchard, McComb, Weston, Port Clinton, Fremont, Bluffton, Carey, Mt. Victory, Prospect, Napoleon, Ada and Marion.

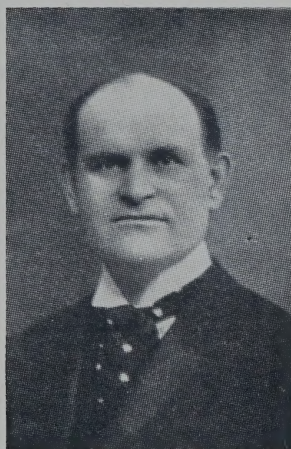
She attended Ohio Northern University, Ohio Wesleyan University and Columbia University. She was honored by Lincoln Memorial University with an L.L.D. degree in 1920, along with the famous Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago.

Before going into Y.W.C.A. work, she taught school in Napoleon and Mansfield high schools and later was a member of the faculty of Ohio Northern University. It was while at Ada that she was induced to enter Y.W.C.A. work. Her first assignment was as a secretary for Missouri and Nebraska. Later, she served in similar capacities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio, forming many associations in those states. She then entered the national field. Her last position with the Y.W.C.A. was that of executive of the national secretarial retired and annuity fund between 1920 and 1922.

ALTHOUGH she officially retired in 1923, she remained actively interested in the Y.W.C.A. and participated in many of its activities and programs.



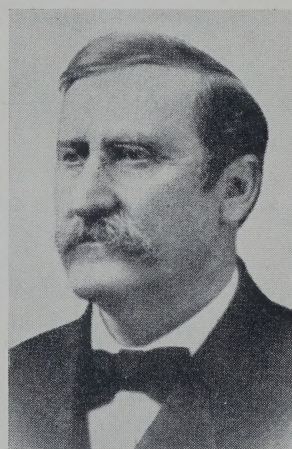
This is the new Findlay Senior High School as viewed from the air.



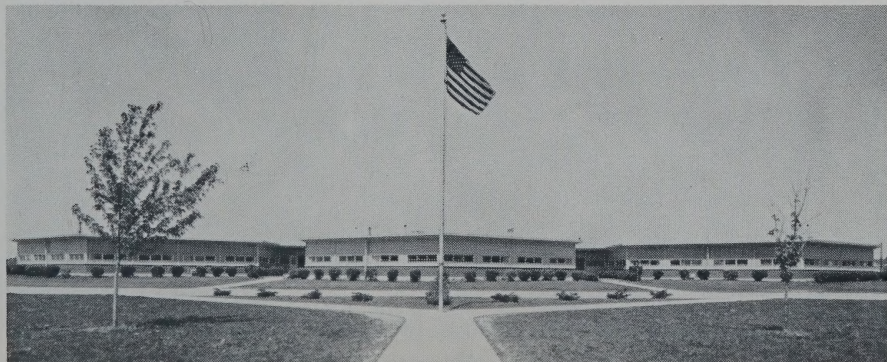
*John F. Smith
high school principal, and
later superintendent*



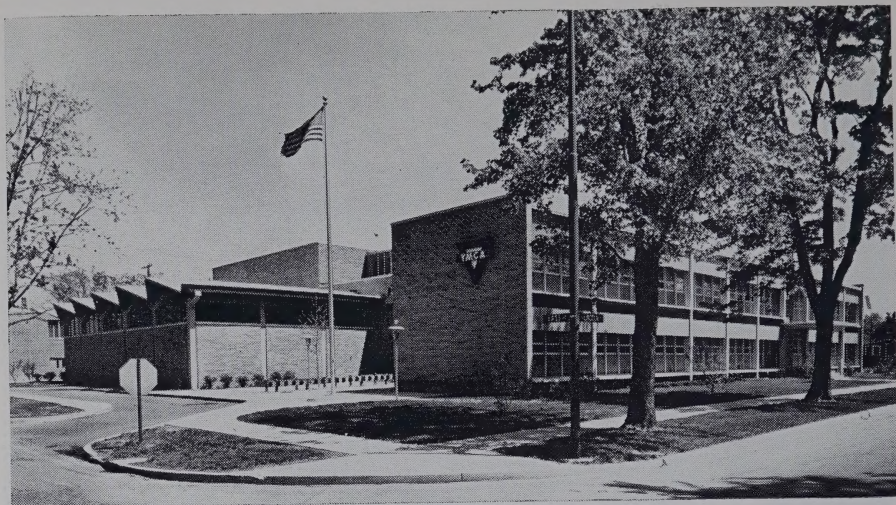
*Dr. Helen F. Barnes
International
Y.W.C.A. leader.*



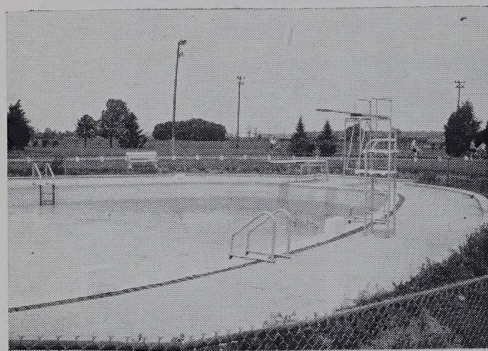
*John W. Zeller
Findlay school
superintendent for 32 years.*



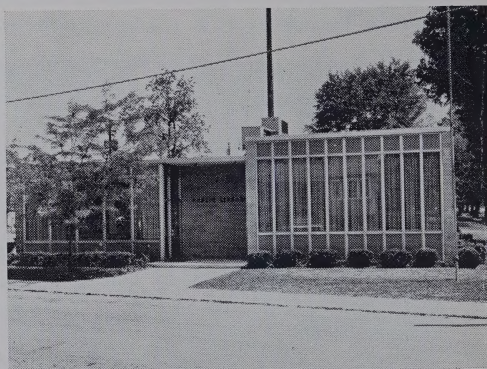
This is Findlay's newest elementary public school, named in honor of Miss Zola D. Jacobs, former superintendent of schools and school teacher and principal here for a long period.



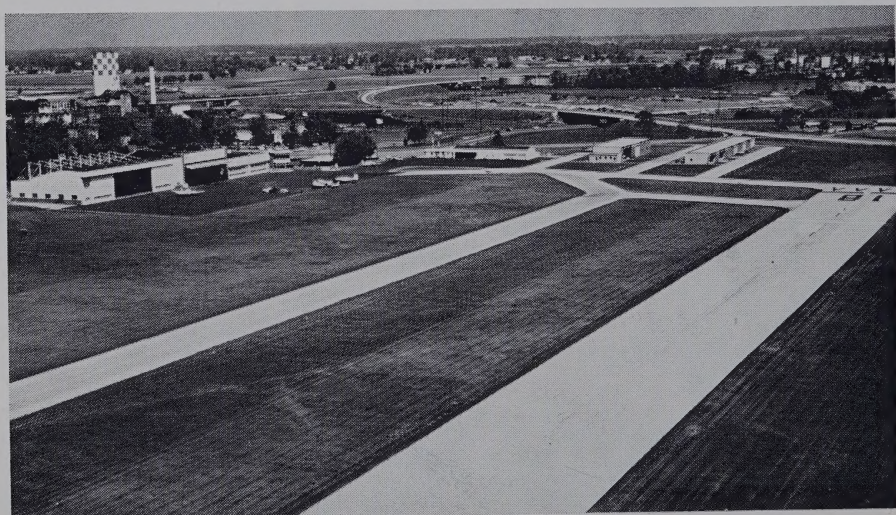
Findlay's new Young Men's Christian Association is shown above.



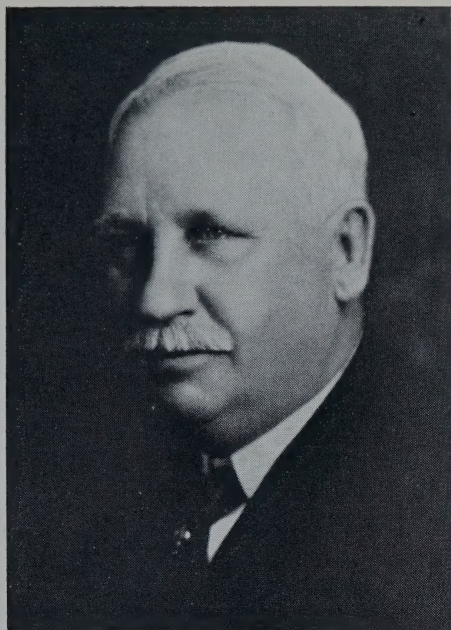
This is the swimming pool at the Arlington Community park.



McComb's new public library is shown here.



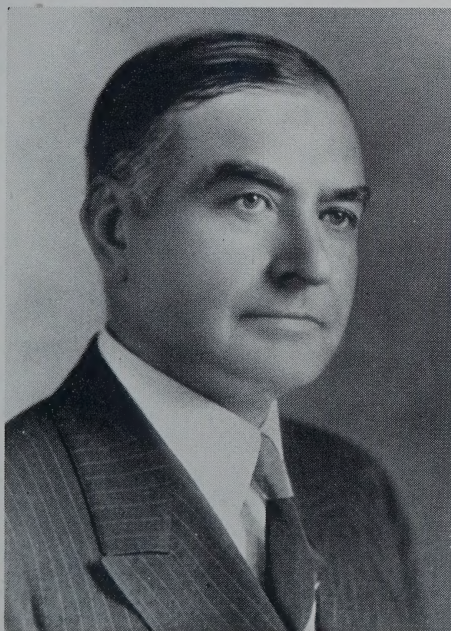
The Findlay Airport is shown here. The airport is the home base of the aviation operations of Marathon Oil company.



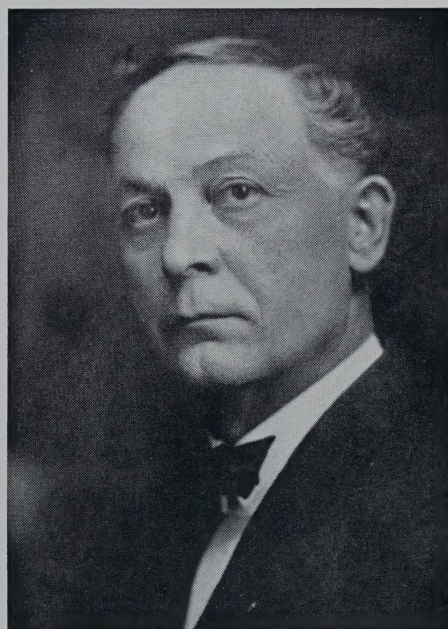
*J. C. Donnell
who served as president of The Ohio Oil
company (now Marathon Oil company)
from 1911 to 1927.*



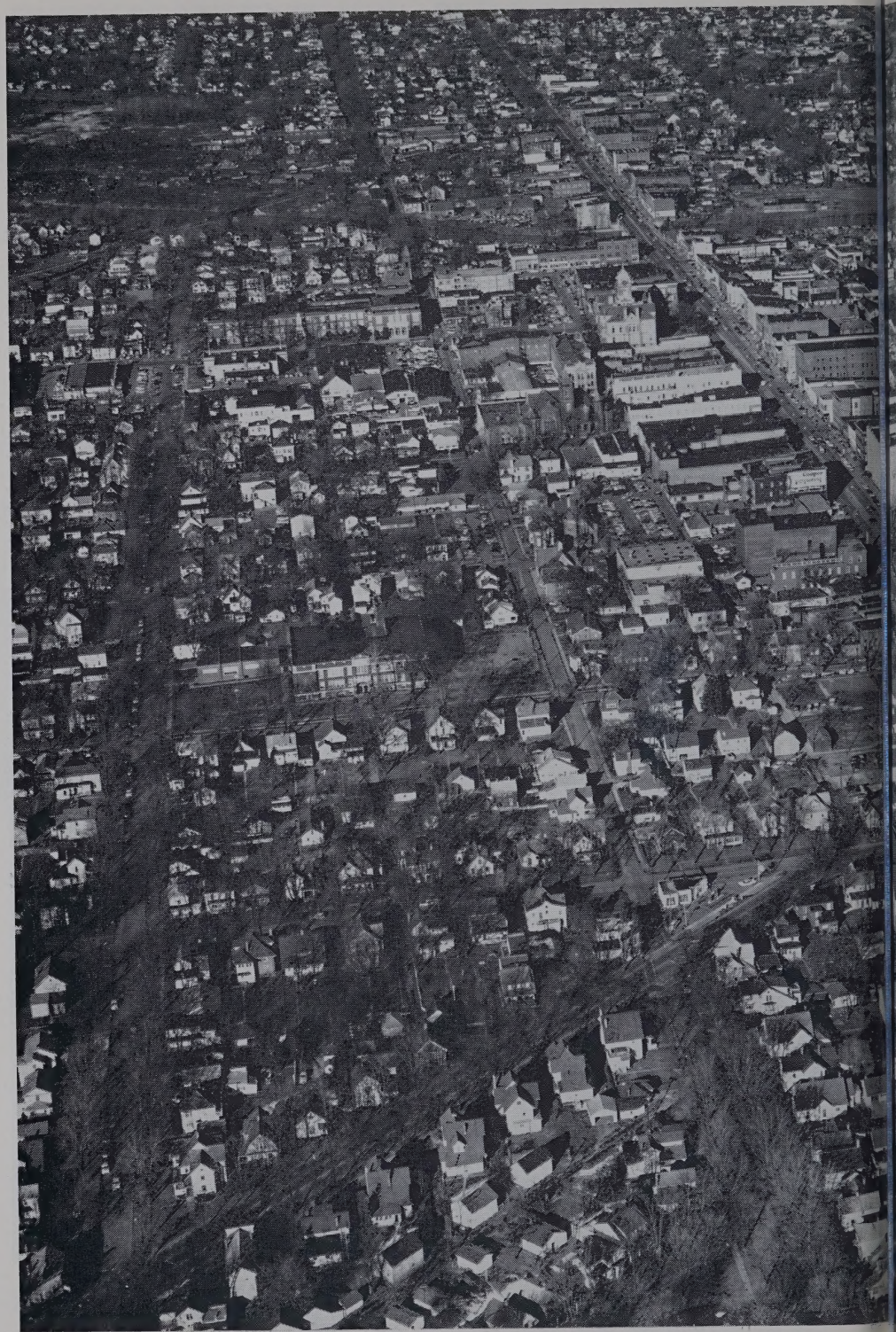
*O. D. Donnell
who was president of The Ohio Oil company
(now Marathon Oil company) from 1927
to 1948.*



*Col. Ralph D. Cole
who was one of the founders of the
American Legion.*



*Beecher W. Waltermire
whose prose and poetry as well as his
oratory won wide recognition.*



This is a view of a portion of the city of Findlay, as



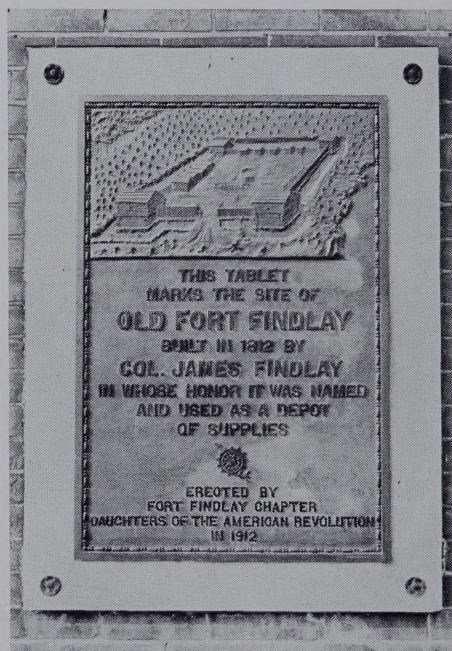
appears from an airplane flying over the community.



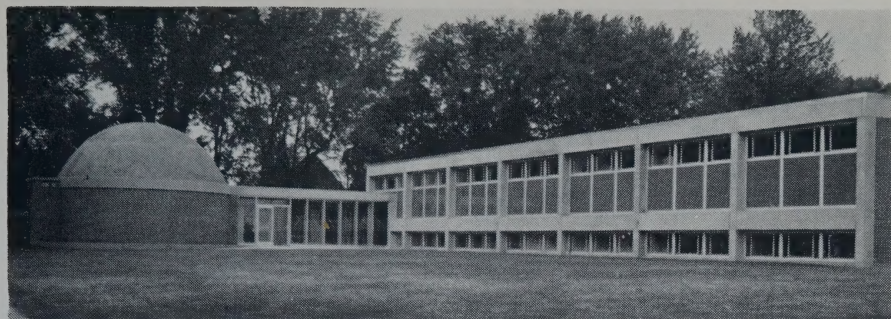
Above is a reproduction of Fort Findlay as it appeared when constructed in 1812 along the Blanchard river. Inset, Gen. William Hull.



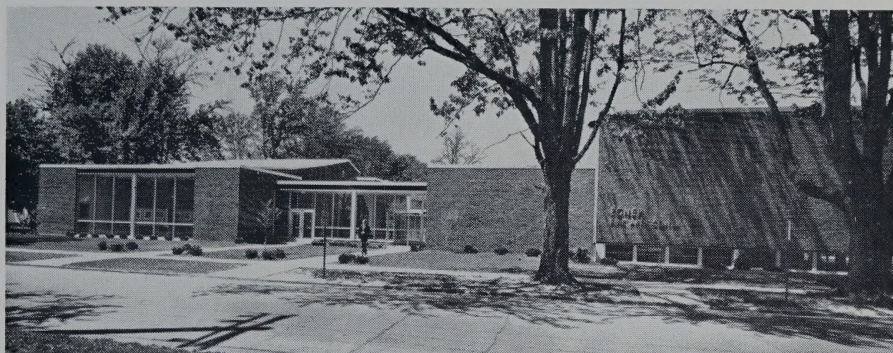
A picture of Tell Taylor pointing to the area where he sat along the Blanchard river when composing his famous song.



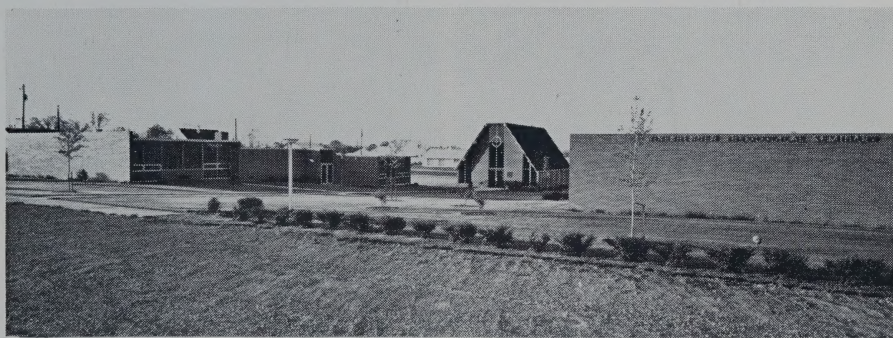
Tablet placed by the D.A.R. on south side of Cusac building, designating area where Fort Findlay was located.



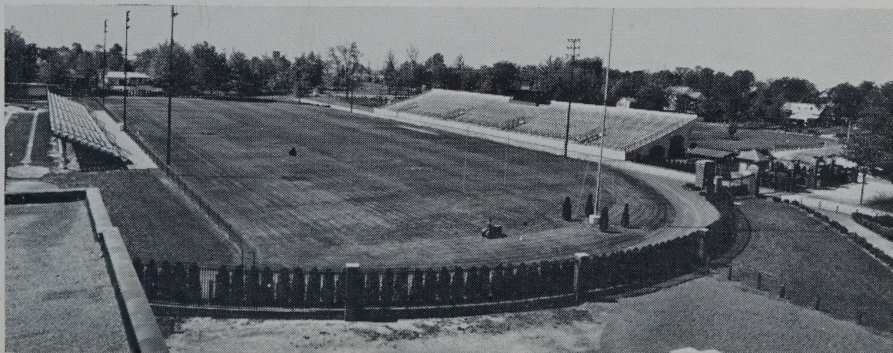
Above is shown the new William B. Brewer Science Hall at Findlay College.



Above is a view of the Egner Fine Arts Center at Findlay College.



This is a picture of the new Winebrenner Theological Seminary.



This is a view of the J. C. Donnell Memorial Stadium.



Above is a picture of the new First Presbyterian church in Findlay.



Above is a view of the new Christ Methodist church.



This is a picture of the new St. John's Lutheran church.



Above is a view of the Findlay Public library.

Following her retirement, she took an active role in Methodist church affairs, the missions cause, the world peace movement and local community activities. She remained exceptionally active almost until her death.

Her friends included some of the world's most prominent women leaders. She had visited Madame Chaing Kai-Shek in China and knew her well. One of her greatest friendships was with Helen Gould, one-time richest woman in the world who helped finance many of the Y.W.C.A. programs inaugurated by Dr. Barnes. Another warm friend was Mrs. Fannie Gamble, of Cincinnati, whose husband was a prominent soap manufacturer and who also aided her in financing various projects.

An honor she especially prized was her formal presentation at Buckingham Palace in London to the late Queen Mary. The occasion was a reception given Y.W.C.A. leaders at the palace.

She traveled extensively. She made a number of trips to Europe and had visited South America, Africa, China, Japan and many other lands in her lifetime. She was in much demand as a public speaker.

Dr. Barnes was a member of the world peace commission of the Methodist church for some years. She also was a local preacher. She was a member of the Ohio commission for the New York world's fair in 1939.

In her home community, she was an active leader. She served as president of the Hancock county W.C.T.U. and of the Findlay Federation of Women's clubs. She was a prime mover in the formation of the Findlay Business and Professional Women's club.

In her home at 432 West Sandusky Street, were large collections of mementoes of her travels and her broad interests. Many of the articles had been presented to her by her famous friends and associates.

Chapter 13

Findlay's Water Supply

I

A GOOD WATER SUPPLY is an invaluable and exceedingly important asset to any community. It is in this area that many cities find themselves in difficulty. Findlay is not one of these, for the city is in the fortunate position of possessing a water supply that is both ample and reliable.

There is intriguing interest in the history of Findlay's water supply. The story of its development is a fascinating one. It reflects the forward-looking and progressive nature of Findlay's civic leadership over the years. Steps that have been taken at various times to insure a good and abundant water supply have been prompted by a degree of sound judgment and of intelligent foresight that have meant much in this vital field of community life and progress.

Like most Ohio cities in the early days, Findlay relied at first upon drilled wells for its water supply for drinking purposes. Until a system of water transmission lines was laid throughout the city the initial fire forces had to rely upon a number of cisterns scattered over the city as strategic points from which water with which to combat fires could be drawn.

Almost every home had its own drilled water well from the earliest times. To keep the pumps from freezing in the winter time, householders would protect them with burlap wrapping or similar material. It was necessary to have the water examined and analyzed frequently to make certain that it was pure and suitable for drinking or other household use.

The city built a waterworks pumping plant around 1888 in the eastern part of the city along McManness avenue, near the Blanchard river. This was originally used to pump the water from the river and fill water transmission lines over the city for use of the fire department and also for use in homes which wished to have the water piped in. It was not used for drinking purposes, since it came directly from the river without treatment.

A reservoir was constructed to the north of the river and a vertical filter dam built between the stream and the reservoir, which was located adjacent to

the waterworks plant. Until the river became somewhat polluted with oil and other material, the filter dam operated successfully, but later it did not serve satisfactorily. With discontinuance of its use, the reservoir became a municipal swimming pool and a large chute-the-chutes was erected at the north end as a park attraction. It was later taken down after death of a North Baltimore youth in an accident.

The area adjoining the waterworks became known as the waterworks park and eventually became Riverside park. The plant stood between the present swimming pool and the replica of the Washington monument. It was torn down when the new waterworks plant was built on North Blanchard street in 1931.

II

WITH THE TURN OF THE CENTURY and with Findlay's water needs having increased greatly as a result of the expansion due to the oil and gas boom of the late 1880's, civic leaders and the municipal authorities began to study the matter of an improved water supply.

For some years, a number of the leaders of the community had been giving thought to the possibility of obtaining a supply of water for Findlay from Limestone Ridge, located nine miles east of Findlay, a short distance northeast of Vanlue, on the Findlay-Carey road, now state route No. 15.

There existed — and still exists — at the ridge an underground stream of water of rather mysterious nature. Additionally, there were springs in the area which appeared to offer the likelihood of providing enough water to furnish the city with an adequate supply, at least for a reasonable length of time and possibly forever.

The historical records of Biglick township, in which the area is located, show that on the farm of William Smith in section three, was located what was known as the "big spring," thus named because it was the largest spring in the county. The cool, pure spring water gushed forth in a torrent from its sandy bed and supplied water for the stock of the whole neighborhood, the records say. The spring furnished power at an early day for a carding machine and a small corn mill.

As times moved on, the Smith spring became a landmark on Limestone Ridge and somewhat of a curiosity. It was considered something of a resort. In the neighborhood of the spring, wells were put down and they proved a source of abundant water.

The city's waterworks board became interested in looking into the Limestone Ridge situation as the demand for a better water supply developed. The idea of piping water for a distance of some nine miles had its difficulties, it was realized, but it was decided to investigate, since there was no other source available, unless water from the Blanchard river was purified. This looked like quite a problem, so the ridge matter was given consideration.

William J. Frey, Findlay druggist and civic leader, was chairman of

the waterworks board at the time. He discussed the proposition with the board of health and others and a visit was made to the ridge to look over the ground. Chairman Frey and Amos Beardsley, city health officer, made the original journey one winter day with other members of the waterworks board to investigate the feasibility of leasing ridge land and building a conduit to Findlay for transmission purposes.

One record shows that they took the Big Four railroad from Findlay to Vanlue and then were driven to the ridge in a bob-sled. Numerous springs were found to be flowing there, including the one on the Smith farm — the “big spring” — which produced 500,000 gallons of water daily, all going to waste.

Members of the board viewed the underground stream of water at the bottom of a large cave near by. Tradition used to say the bottom of the stream was never sounded, but engineers later reported they had plumbed the depth.

Samples of the water were taken and sent to the state board of health for examination. The water was found pure.

Because of the large volume of water that flowed out of the springs every 24 hours with no let-up, engineers became convinced that the supply was not local and that it possibly came from some underground lake or river that stretched for great distances.

The city authorities, after debating the matter, finally decided that it would be possible to bring the water into the city and the necessary steps were initiated to achieve that end. A lengthy delay ensued with regard to what type of pipe to use, the decision finally being vitrified material.

It was necessary to lease right-of-way for the line. This was done and laying of the 24-inch line from the ridge to the city began. It was slow work, requiring nearly two years. The job was completed in 1904.

The water from the ridge was piped into the waterworks plant on McManness avenue and from there into the city mains. A large reservoir was built to the south of the waterworks plant for storage of water. With the construction of the new waterworks plant in 1931, this reservoir was removed and the site is now the location of the municipal swimming pool.

III

THE NEW WATER SUPPLY gave Findlay a new slogan. “The city of pure water and low taxes” was the city’s sobriquet which attracted much attention over the state. It so happened at that time that Findlay’s tax rate was very low, due to the situation that prevailed with regard to tax laws then.

The first day the water from the ridge was turned into the city mains was a memorable one, long anticipated by the citizenry. Everyone was told to wait for loud whistles from the city’s factories at a specified time and then turn on their faucets for a time to leave all the river water out, after which the city filled the mains with the new water.

The availability of a water supply of the quality of the Limestone Ridge

water brought a new day for homes and industries, locally. It was a great convenience to have such water on tap at the faucet.

Findlay still obtains water from the ridge, although the supply is now augmented by water drawn from the river. The wells cannot furnish enough water to meet the city's complete needs.

Originally, the city had 14 deep wells and two big flowing springs from which water was obtained for transmission to the city. Three wells are now in use on the ridge. They are located on a tract of 520 acres under lease by the city of Findlay, lying on both sides of the Findlay-Carey road just inside the county and near the Wyandot county line.

In the early days, the wells flowed without pumping, but as demands increased, the naturally flowing output was found insufficient and pumping equipment was installed for use when demand became big during summer months.

The water goes into a receiving vat, which is a large brick and concrete reservoir, 30 feet in diameter and entirely roofed.

The transmission line is built of vitrified tile 24 inches in diameter in four-foot sections, with the tile wall two inches thick. The line leaves the receiving vat on the west side and extends westward to the old right-of-way of the Big Four railroad east of what was known as Huber station. From this point it follows the old railroad path to within two miles of Findlay, then it angles northwest in the direction of Riverside park, crossing under the river near the park dam, then following the north bank of the river to the Blanchard street water plant. The line crosses East Sandusky street at the King dairy farm a short distance east of Fishlock avenue.

The line has a constant and nearly uniform fall from end to end, dropping about 25 feet in the nearly 11 miles. Its depth under the surface varies from four feet to as deep as 20 feet in places. It crosses twice under the Blanchard river at which point cast iron pipe is used.

The superintendent of the waterworks during the construction of the water line from the ridge to Findlay was William C. Nusser. He made a trip through the 11-mile length of the line shortly after it was built to test its effectiveness. The story of his journey is a colorful one. He built a small four-wheeled cart, similar to the device with which garage mechanics crawl under automobiles to make repairs. The cart was narrow, but long enough so that he could lie on it face downward at full length.

Mr. Nusser lost his life in an accident at the ridge pumping station in 1919. He was succeeded by Rufus E. Taylor as superintendent.

The old waterworks plant on McManness avenue was discontinued in 1931, when the new waterworks plant on North Blanchard street was erected at a cost of \$450,000. The old plant was eventually torn down and the area thrown into Riverside park.

IV

THE WATERWORKS PLANT, which went into use in the fall of 1931, incorporates the latest engineering features in providing a satisfactory

water supply for the community. It includes facilities of the most modern type for filtering, softening and purification of the city's water and when built in 1931 was so constructed that enlargement and expansion could take place without difficulty. In 1953 the capacity of the plant was doubled to keep pace with the steadily growing demands for water in the city. Underground reservoirs at the plant contain 2,000,000 gallons of purified water and 1,000,000 gallons of untreated water.

The city has received much favorable recognition with regard to its water system. The continuity which has characterized the development of plans for provision of an adequate water supply has elicited much comment.

Co-operating with the city through the long period of evolvement of plans has been the engineering firm of Jones, Henry and Williams of Toledo.

The waterworks plant pumps an average of four million gallons of water a day with a peak of eight million gallons at times.

Fluoridation of the water supply was inaugurated on April 1, 1957, by action of the city council.

The waterworks building is in Spanish mission style of architecture with the grounds beautifully landscaped.

A few years after World War II, the city acquired acreage in Marion township a few miles east of the city for the construction of a large reservoir to add to the municipality's water facilities, further insuring an adequate supply of water for emergency and other purposes. The reservoir is filled with water from the nearby Blanchard river in times of high water.

When the reservoir was built, the old vitrified pipe line constructed shortly after the turn of the century to bring water to Findlay from the ridge, was utilized for transmission. It later became evident that the capacity of this line was insufficient and the city in 1959 built a new 36 inch line directly from the reservoir to Findlay, following the route of the other line closely.

The superintendent of the water works during the period from June 1, 1924 to 1962, was Otto C. Gohlke, who also served as city engineer and sewage disposal plant head. At his death in 1962, Merle Wittenmyer was named to succeed him.

The city of Findlay is now engaged in another waterworks expansion program, involving improvements at the water works and a second reservoir.

The Findlay waterworks represents an investment of upwards of \$5,000,000. Revenue from the sale of water has financed the cost entirely. For all expansions and improvements, the revenue has proven sufficient to pay the cost.

The community properly regards its waterworks system as one of its most valuable assets. The city is proud, too, of the foresightedness which has characterized the development of the system through the years, insuring an ample and dependable supply of water for all purposes. This policy has set Findlay apart as one of the comparatively few Ohio cities which can point to an adequate and fully sufficient water supply for the foreseeable future.

Such a policy has enabled the community to attract new industry and add to its resources in a most substantial manner.

The story of Findlay's water supply constitutes a chapter of top significance in the record of the community's progress over the years.

Chapter 14

Record Post-War Expansion Climaxes Local Economic Picture

I

THE POST WORLD-WAR II PERIOD, extending back to 1945, stands as the longest continuous era of favorable economic conditions in the history of Findlay and Hancock county.

No other period in the community's past has equalled the uninterrupted expansion and growth that have taken place beginning with 1945.

Looking backward, the community's economic and civic history divides pretty evenly into two 75-year periods.

For the first seven and a half decades, the community was only a small one, with a population that grew from a very small number in the hundreds to between 4,000 and 5,000 over the first 75-year period. It was not an era of great growth and expansion, as the census demonstrates. Manufacturing establishments were comparatively few. The rural area had filled up more rapidly than the county seat, with the result that by the 1880's the population on farms was almost at a peak then. The result was that the economy was largely tied to agriculture and the community was regarded as depending much on the farmers for its income.

In the 75-year period running into the 1880's what little manufacturing in Findlay there was consisted of such things as planning mills, grain elevators for the milling and processing of farm products and the like. The workers in the community found employment largely in the business houses on Main Street. The industrial payroll was almost negligible.

II

THE GAS AND OIL BOOM OF THE 1880's was the turning point in the local economy, of course. The Oesterlen "discovery" well was completed in December, 1884, on the present county fairgrounds. This sparked the rapid development of the gas and oil field. The great Karg gas well of January, 1886, attracted world-wide attention to Findlay. The boom brought with it

a great industrial development which changed Findlay's picture completely.

Findlay became a different town in the 1880's, as a consequence of the discovery of gas and oil. From a small center of less than 5,000 inhabitants, it became a city of 20,000 and more population almost overnight. It was a new era for the community.

The economy literally "exploded." The immense quantity of gas—offered free at first to industrial consumers—attracted many new manufacturing firms, especially glass factories, for which natural gas was an especially good fuel.

The new plants, the gas and oil fields and the rapidly expanding commercial business along Main Street and elsewhere about the growing town provided abundant employment for all. Payrolls skyrocketed and money was "easy" to an extreme degree.

The gas eventually played out, however, although the discovery of oil enabled the community to hold a considerable amount of its gains, at least for a time. The glass factories began to leave or fold up and other manufacturing plants, drawn here by the prospects of quick wealth, did not prove permanent, in many instances.

The consequence was that the boom was destined to dissolve to a rather disturbing degree. The full extent of the boom period was only a little less than 10 years in duration. By the mid-1890's, the recession was setting in.

As was the case with some boom towns, however, Findlay did not lose all. By 1900, the population was still between four and five times what it had been before the Oesterlen well discovery in 1884. But growth had stopped and the period of 1900-1910 was to witness a falling off of population to just below the 15,000 mark. Many of the oil workers left for new fields which had been discovered in Illinois.

A few industrial concerns which had been established here in the late boom period in the 1890 period did prove permanent. But their number was small, numbering less than a half dozen in all. Succeeding years, however, did emphasize their value to the community and they constituted a framework from which was to come subsequent industrial expansion and development.

III

FINDLAY ENTERED THE DECADE OF 1910-1920, with the emphasis on efforts to regain population and build a stronger industrial situation that would provide jobs and prosperity.

There were assets that had been acquired during the preceding decade or two. One was the general offices of what was then the Ohio Oil Company—now Marathon. The company had had its origin in 1887 at Lima, when oil was developing rapidly in the northwestern Ohio field. Early in the new century, Findlay was to become the home of the firm's principal offices. All that this has meant to Findlay in the following years, is of course, well known to all.

Findlay College opened its doors in September, 1886, while the gas and

oil boom was at its height. This has proven an asset, too, that has contributed much to the local community through the years.

As the 1910-1920 decade progressed, much headway was made by way of community progress. Findlay's tire industry was established in 1914 and the Cooper Tire and Rubber company observed its golden anniversary this year.

But continued progress was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. The subsequent post-war depression in the early 1920's further slowed the economy, locally. But after a few years, progress was again resumed and much headway was made in getting the local economy moving on a substantial basis. New industry was coming in, the local school system was greatly expanded and population was climbing.

However, another unwelcome brake was to be applied, with the great depression, which had its beginning late in 1929. Again, Findlay's efforts to achieve sustained growth on an uninterrupted basis found themselves thwarted to a considerable extent.

The depression continued through most of the 1930's. While Findlay was not hit as hard as many other communities, it was still a time of difficulty, in which most efforts were concentrated upon keeping things on an even keel to the fullest extent possible, with little attention given naturally to growth and development.

The outbreak of World War II in Europe in late 1939 and the necessity of building up the nation's defense did much to end the depression, but made economic and civic advancement rather hard. This situation was to continue into the mid-1940's and through the war which came to a conclusion in 1945.

IV

TOWARD THE END of World War II, Findlay began to prepare for the post-war era. Under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, an organization was developed to look ahead to the period right after the war, when it was feared that there might be economic difficulties. The days after World War I, when such a situation did prevail, were recalled. It took three or four years for the community and most cities in the country to become adjusted to the sudden ending of conflict.

Committees were appointed to examine the possibilities for economic recovery and adjustment following the war which came to a successful end during the summer of 1945. They assembled a vast array of facts and figures and made recommendations for courses of action, looking to procedures to provide jobs and markets. When the war did end, Findlay was ready for a return to peace with an elaborate plan to meet the post-war problems. The plan constituted in reality a blueprint of the Findlay of the next couple decades.

Much of the program has been achieved. While some phases of the proposed plan of action did not work out exactly as contemplated, most

other phases, such as school projections, public works improvements and the like, were realized. A favorable factor was that the general economic conditions over the country did not follow the pattern of the post-war period after World War I, but there developed a strong improvement generally in the economy that made it much easier for communities like Findlay to get back to normal.

The pent-up consumer demand that developed during the long period of the war stimulated an economic situation that soon had the country's industrial and commercial wheels humming. Findlay shared in this fortunate situation and the stage was set for the long period of favorable economic circumstances which had its beginning in the late 1940's.

New industry of a very substantial nature came to Findlay after the war that has contributed materially to the prosperity of the community. Among new industrial concerns of a larger nature which came to Findlay in the post-war era have been the Radio Corporation of America, Eastman Kodak company, Dow Chemical company, R. L. Kuss company, and the Burdett Oxygen company. The Hercules Tire and Rubber company is the latest industrial newcomer to the community.

Another vital factor that contributed to the easing of the post-war situation was the unusual increase in population that began to develop right after the conclusion of the conflict. This had its favorable effect upon an expanding economy. Findlay gained 27 per cent in population in the 1940 decade, most of the increase coming in the final half. Again in the 1950 decade Findlay's inhabitants gained by about an equal amount.

The upward trend which was established early in the post-war period has never abated. It has continued on an almost continuous basis in nearly all areas of community activities. Constructive progress has been registered all along the line, with the result that Findlay now finds itself with enviable economy levels, a steady increasing population, a goodly number of new industries of a substantial nature, low unemployment, many civic problems solved, others well along toward solution and the future looking exceedingly favorable, as one scans the horizon.

Chapter 15

Mid 20th-Century Era Brings Noteworthy Progress in Community

The years which have followed World War II have witnessed more substantial and permanent progress in a variety of areas in Findlay and Hancock county than has ever been experienced before.

Here is a description of some of the important phases of this forward movement that has taken the local community ahead so remarkably and so significantly.

* * *

Findlay and Hancock county have witnessed a period of new church construction and church expansion unequalled in the community's previous history.

Upwards of 25 new churches have been built in Findlay since the close of World War II. Other denominations have substantially enlarged their facilities. It has the greatest church-building era in the community's history within such a short space of time.

At the present time (1965), more new churches are still going up and plans are being made for still more.

In the rural areas, additions have been built to a half dozen or so churches.

* * *

In the mid 1950's the need for a united effort with regard to fund solicitation in the community was felt and under Chamber of Commerce auspices, a movement was launched, after committee study, for a joint solicitation, uniting the various causes which had been conducting individual campaigns.

The new organization was the United Community Fund, embracing the entire county in its scope. Financial requirements of the various agencies were combined for a single campaign of solicitation held each year in October.

The movement has proven a decided success. In 1965, there were 11 agencies in the united effort, in which many citizens participate.

An extremely critical problem was solved in Findlay and Hancock county when a new and enlarged hospital became a reality in 1958. A bond vote in 1954 paved the way for the new institution. Financial gifts of Findlay business men and their firms and of the medical profession together with an accumulation of funds in the treasury of the hospital non-profit association which operates the institution, as well as a grant from the federal government supplemented the bond proceeds to make the new hospital possible. The present capacity is 175 beds.

Later, a portion of the old hospital provided facilities for a department of physical medicine and for a nursing home for convalescent patients.

Now in the mid 1960's, the new hospital is proving too small and need for enlarged facilities is being felt. Plans have been made for an expansion program.

* * *

The community's new Young Men's Christian Association, completed in 1964, is ranked as one of the very finest 'Y' structures in the country. It was erected after fire destroyed the previous association building.

Contributions of local business and industrial firms and of citizens made possible the new structure, which represents an investment of well over \$1,000,000. Funds for the project have been completely subscribed.

The community is fortunate to possess such a valuable asset. It serves city and county in a most significant manner and provides a community center that is most popular. Its many features and facilities find high favor among members and all others who have occasion to utilize them.

* * *

Findlay and Hancock county have made rapid strides in population in the post-world war II period. Very few cities can match the increase registered in number of inhabitants, percentage-wise.

The gain between the 1940 and the 1960 federal census counts has amounted to 50 per cent. Lorain is the only other city in Findlay's general category to have such an increase. In northwestern Ohio, Findlay's population increase stands at the top.

The regional planning commission's population study committee has estimated that the community will continue to grow in the years ahead. It's predictions are as follows, with regard to population in Findlay and Hancock county:

	Findlay	Hancock county
1965	33,870	57,900
1970	38,370	63,950
1975	43,370	71,100
1980	49,300	79,500
1985	55,200	88,500

Findlay College has grown to an institution of substantial size in the last half dozen years. From an enrollment of considerably less than 500, it has now become a college with more than 1,000 students.

Its campus has expanded remarkably. New buildings have gone up, the college has become accredited, its faculty has been greatly enlarged, the curriculum has been enriched and other advances registered.

The city of Findlay, the alumni and the sponsoring religious denomination, the Churches of God in North America, have contributed financially in a liberal manner to the strengthening of the college's foundations in the last several years. Findlay's business community has co-operated greatly in the institution's expansion program.

* * *

Findlay and Hancock county modernized their voting machinery in 1951, when automatic voting machines went into use. At that time only a dozen or so of the 88 counties of Ohio were using such machines.

The machines were purchased by the county commissioners upon recommendation of the county board of elections.

* * *

Findlay adopted zoning in the mid 1950's. City council approved an ordinance placing all areas within the city in different categories for use, such as exclusive residential, mercantile and industrial, with varying gradations.

A board of zoning appeals was set up to act on requests for variance from the requirements of zoning ordinance.

* * *

Off-street parking became a reality in Findlay around 1950, when the state legislature authorized municipalities to provide such facilities. Downtown lots were purchased and automobile parking permitted thereon, the city borrowing funds for this purpose, with proceeds from metered use of the lots paying off the obligations.

Early in the 1960's, the city built a large parking garage on E. Crawford St. to further provide automobile parking, revenue from its use and from the various off-street parking facilities being ear-marked for payment of the cost.

* * *

The Winebrenner Theological Seminary became an institution for the training of clergymen, with its own buildings and facilities in 1960 in Findlay. Previously it has been an integral part of the Findlay College program.

Three new structures were erected on E. Melrose Ave., in Findlay to provide facilities for the seminary. The institution belongs to the Eldership of the Churches of God in North America, which is also the Findlay College sponsoring denomination.

Findlay and Hancock county possess a broad program covering character activities for boys and girls through the work of the Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Each agency, with staffs of leaders, conducts programs that appeal strongly to the youth of the community. Their contribution to citizenship training is of a substantial nature. The Camp Fire Girls and the Boy Scouts own camps that are popular centers for girls and boys in the summer. The Camp Fire Girls' camp is Camp Glen, located 25 miles east of Findlay on the Sandusky River and the Boy Scouts' camp is Camp Berry, situated five miles south of Findlay.

* * *

"The Anchor" is a teen center which was established in Findlay in the late 1950's on East St., just off E. Main Cross St. Funds for the center were raised by popular canvass, boys and girls joining in conducting the solicitation themselves. Members of labor unions and others contributed their services in construction of "The Anchor," in which members of the senior high classes held membership, entitling them to the privilege of enjoying the facilities of the center on an organized basis.

* * *

The enrollment in the schools of the community has increased greatly in recent years.

In Findlay, the number of pupils has more than doubled since World War II. This has made necessary the expansion of facilities, the addition of a substantial number of teachers and the availability of more revenue.

* * *

There are 2,137 farms in Hancock county. The average size of the farms is 151 acres.

A total of 74.1 per cent of Hancock county farms are operated by owners, according to the 1960 federal census. The average value of land and buildings per farm amounted to \$46,770.

* * *

Deposits in Findlay and Hancock county financial institutions in 1965 amounted to over \$100,000,000, as compared with \$38,112,000 in 1950.

* * *

Employment in Findlay industries and other establishments has nearly doubled in the last 25 years.

Statistics of the state bureau of unemployment compensation show that the total number of workers in the city and county covered by such jobless insurance has grown steadily. For the year 1963, the total was 13,079. It went to 13,762 in 1964.

In 1943, there were only 7,437 such employes. This figure had grown to 9,164 in 1950 and to 12,481 in 1960.

Compensation in 1943 amounted to \$13,966,422 as compared with \$76,203,045 in 1963.

When the figures from areas of employment not covered by jobless insurance are taken into consideration, the totals become considerably higher.

* * *

Findlay and Hancock county have witnessed a substantial growth in new homes since World War II.

The 1960 federal census showed these totals for dwelling units: Hancock county, 16,583; Findlay 9,773. Ten years previously in the 1950 census there were 14,493 homes within the county and 8,125 in Findlay.

* * *

A regional planning commission serves the community. It was organized in the 1950's and functions on a county-wide basis, with associate members from areas surrounding Hancock county.

The commission, which has a full-time executive and staff, is financed by funds from city and county. Offices are located at 230 E. Sandusky St. in Findlay.

The city of Findlay also has a planning commission.

* * *

The Findlay Area Chamber of Commerce has expanded its program considerably. In the post-war period the Chamber has several times won national recognition from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce for its broad program of action.

Broader community participation has been achieved by the establishment of a number of new divisions.

The Community Improvement Corp. was established by the Chamber to spearhead efforts in the field of industrial development. The Findlay Area Chamber of Commerce became one of the first Chambers in the country to win accreditation by the U. S. Chamber in a program established in 1964.

Chapter 16

The Course of Taxation Within Hancock County

I

TAXATION OF PROPERTY for revenue purposes in Hancock county has followed an interesting course. The path has taken various directions over nearly a century and a half that the county has been in existence.

New and changing times have brought new needs and new procedures as the years have come and gone since Hancock county was first organized in 1828, following the establishment of the fort and the subsequent settlement that developed on the banks of the Blanchard river.

The history of taxation in the local community holds considerable interest. In this chapter we will examine some of its aspects and seek to follow its course.

The early settlers were not long in providing financial means to help get their new community successfully established. Even in those pioneer days, they had undoubtedly heard the old saying to the effect that nothing is more certain than "taxes and death" and they decided they might as well "face the music."

At the first election conducted in the new area in 1824, only a couple years after Wilson Vance had laid out the town, one of the officials was elected as a treasurer. Another was an assessor. Job Chamberlain, one of the early settlers, for whom Chamberlain Hill, at Findlay's south extremity, was named, became the first treasurer and Mr. Vance, who probably knew more about the new town and its make-up than anyone else, was the first individual to hold the post of assessor, whose responsibility was to place valuations for tax purposes upon the property of the settlers.

There was no county auditor then. Evidently only the treasurer and the assessor handled the local tax machinery in those very early days before the county became officially organized.

At this time, Findlay township embraced all of what is now Hancock

county, which was then a part of Wood county. It was not until Jan. 21, 1828 that the legislature ordered Hancock county established in its own right. Election of county officials was one of the first orders of business and on the first Monday in April in 1838, such officials were elected, including a county treasurer to collect the taxes. Also elected was a county auditor to supervise the tax machinery of the new county and an assessor to appraise and evaluate the property for the purposes of taxation. Joshua Hedges was the county's first treasurer, Matthew Reighly the first auditor and William Hackney, the property assessor.

Under these elected officials, the county embarked upon the levying of taxes and their collection to finance the operations of the new county government. The system of that day was to continue in effect for almost 100 years before any drastic changes were made.

There is no record of where the first county offices were located, but according to Jacob Spaythe, author of a Hancock county history, "tradition has it that the county treasurer carried his tax duplicate in his hat and the other offices probably carried their records the same way, as they were not very numerous or bulky."

At the time the community's first tax officials were elected and shortly thereafter, the taxable property of the county consisted largely of some primitive structures which had been erected on South Main Street between the Blanchard river and what is now Sandusky Street, then Back Street. They were located on each side of the thoroughfare and housed what buildings were erected to take care of the small settlement's needs. Farms of any size were yet to be laid out, although this was getting under way as settlers negotiated purchases with the federal government land agent located at Bucyrus, Ohio, and later at other points.

II

THERE ARE RECORDS which go back almost to the origin of the county with respect to taxation matters. In the Spaythe history of Hancock county, the author, who was a deputy county auditor, listed property tax valuation and tax collection totals for the county starting with the year 1829, which was the first full year of Hancock county's existence. His volume was published in 1903 and the totals go through the year 1902. The files at the court house complete the record.

Prior to the organization of the county in 1828, the tax records for Findlay township — the name of the area then — are meager. We do have a record that the total amount of the tax duplicate for 1826 was only \$56.12. This represented the valuation for tax purposes of all the property in the township, which in reality meant the town of Findlay for that was all that existed then by way of any organized settlement.

By the time the county had been organized a few years later, the tax situation had begun to take on a different look. The records show that Hancock county's first tax duplicate of all property, real and personal,

amounted to \$15,323. This was the tax valuation of all such property for the year 1829. It was divided as follows: realty, \$8,071; personal property, \$7,252. The records show that there were 4,670 acres of land that had been bought from the federal government and now belonged to individuals. It is interesting to note that by 1842, virtually the entire county had been acquired by settlers from the government and was under local taxation. The total acreage in 1842 amounted to 340,063.

The total amount of taxes levied on the duplicate of \$15,323 was \$172.44. Of this sum, \$45.67 went to the state of Ohio and the balance of \$126.77 remained here to finance the operation of the county and town. After paying the county officials, there must have been very little left for any other governmental purposes.

The \$172.44 in taxes for 1829 compares with a total of \$5,693,993.25 levied in taxes on the 1963 tax duplicate and paid in the year 1964 by taxpayers for all governmental operations in Hancock county and its taxing subdivisions.

By 1850, the taxes levied in the county for all purposes had grown to \$31,085.56 and by 1884 — the year the Oesterlen gas well was discovered — to a total of \$240,932.31. From then on, the county's tax picture changed drastically, as would be expected, as a consequence of the developing boom, resulting from the discovery of gas and the later oil wells. By 1890, the tax income had grown to \$453,359.19. The \$600,000 mark was passed in 1893, with the total standing at \$609,187.17, or three times what it had been only 15 years earlier. The peak as a result of the boom came in 1901, when the total taxes levied amounted to \$698,731.93.

The total of \$15,323 representing the valuation of all taxable property in the county in 1829 grew rapidly, as the increasing amount of taxes viewed above indicates. By 1846, the grand tax list of all taxable property showed a value of \$898,158.00. Tax value of real estate rose from the \$8,071 figure to 1829 to \$728,222 in 1846 and the tax value of all personal property from \$7,252 to \$169,936.

Before the tax figures went on the tax books in 1847, there must have been a reappraisal or revaluation, for the tax values took a decided jump upward. The 1847 figures show a grand total of \$2,196,251 for the tax duplicate as compared with only \$898,158 the previous year, the increase amounting to more than double the year before. There must have been another reappraisal between 1853 and 1854, for the duplicate rose from \$3,217,048 to \$5,391,783 between those years. Again between 1870 and 1871, another revaluation evidently took place for the duplicate increased from \$7,765,869 to \$11,384,318.

Reappraisals of real estate have taken place over the succeeding years at various times. A state law now requires such reappraisal every six years. The last one was in 1962 in Findlay and Hancock county. For the year 1964, the grand tax list in Hancock county showed a total of \$191,-

861,758, of which \$129,225,230 was in real estate, \$22,603,000 in public utilities, and \$40,030,528 in tangible personal property. The grand tax list for the city of Findlay amounted to \$93,854,208.

(In the appendix will be found a summary of the total tax lists for past years by decades in Hancock county).

A look at the personal property which was listed for taxation in 1829 is interesting. There were 93 horses, valued at \$3,720 and 279 cattle, upon which a tax value of \$2,232 was placed. Additionally, merchants had stocks valued at \$1,300. This made up all of the personal property for that year.

In subsequent years, the number of horses in Hancock county taxed on the duplicate exceeded 12,000 in number. At one time in the county's tax history, all the horses were valued at close to three quarters of a million dollars. This was around 1890. In earlier days, pianos and organs were taxed as personal property and the first ones were listed in 1849, when two went on the duplicate, valued at \$100 each. Carriages also were taxed and the first were listed in 1832 with a value of \$30. At one time in the 1880's, there were over 5,000 such vehicles on the Hancock county tax books. By 1900, the total was down below 1,500.

III

THE LAWS which governed taxation of property when Hancock county came into existence in 1828 remained unchanged in their major provisions for more than 80 years thereafter. The county auditor was the chief taxing official of the county and the county treasurer collected the taxes. Appraising of property for tax purposes was in charge of elected assessors, who represented each taxing district. Budgets of anticipated needs were filed with the auditor by the officials of the different districts and the tax rates were established after a review of these budgets by the auditor and usually the treasurer and prosecuting attorney. This was done each summer so that the collection of the taxes could start late in the fall.

The first general change in the system came in 1913. Under the leadership of Governor James M. Cox, the tax system underwent an overhaul by the state legislature. Elected assessors were done away with and the county auditor was given full power and authority to appraise property for taxation, with the aid of those he might name to assist him. It was felt that the elective method of obtaining men to fill the assessors posts was inefficient, since an individual's popularity and not his capacity for good work often played the chief role in his election, according to those advocating a change.

The new method brought a storm of protest. There were charges of autocratic rule and centralization of power. The opponents of the new procedure organized and proceeded to seek a return to the old method of property appraisal by defeating Governor Cox for re-election when he ran in 1914. They were successful and Frank B. Willis, of Ada, who

had been a member of the faculty at Ohio Northern University before his election to Congress from the 8th district in 1910, won the governorship. But the new administration was unable to accomplish any change in the new tax system and the assessors never returned.

In connection with the election of assessors, it is interesting to recall that throughout the more than 80 years that the system was in effect, there was one election — that of 1911 — when Socialists were named assessors in Findlay. It was during an era when Socialists were quite active in Findlay and two of the wards elected members of this party to assessorships, also selecting a Socialist as ward councilman. All were defeated in the succeeding election in 1913.

The next important change in the state tax laws as they affected Findlay and Hancock county and all other areas of the state came early in the 1930's. The people of the state by constitutional amendment decided to turn in an entirely new direction with regard to levying taxes for local purposes.

There had long been a feeling that the so-called uniform rule method of procedure in levying taxes was outmoded and needed to be supplanted by a new system that would, it was felt, eliminate inequities and give a fairer treatment to the owner of property.

The voters decided to inaugurate what was known as a classified system of taxation in the state of Ohio. Under the old method all property, real and personal, was taxed at the same rate, whether it was real estate, household goods, money, stocks representing ownership in corporations or any other kind of property. All went under the uniform rule when it came to paying taxes. This rate was established by relating the total appraised value of all this property within the taxing district to the financial needs of the district, and arriving at a millage figure that was applied to the total assessed value of each property owner.

The classified system which voters decided should be introduced in Ohio, as it had in other states, set up different types of property and established separate rates for separate kinds of such property.

Real estate, merchants' stocks, factory machinery, farmers' livestock and similar possessions and some other property remained taxable as before. But such property as stocks in corporations, interest, money and the like were taxed differently, under the new system. They were classified for taxation according to their types. Whereas stocks had been taxed at their worth under the old uniform rule, they were now taxed on an income basis. A five per cent levy was laid upon their income to the owner. The same became true with regard to interest on notes, mortgages and the like.

Also a change of much importance was made in the limitation of taxes on real estate and other types of property which still remained under the old uniform rule. Ohio had been one of the first states to ever impose an over-all limitation on the property tax. As early as 1831, there was a sliding scale of tax limitation for specified purpose in counties and townships. The first

one per cent limit was adopted in 1910. This limited taxes to not more than one per cent of the tax valuation. In 1929, an amendment to the constitution was passed "freezing" the statutory tax limit at 15 mills. Then in 1933, the limit was reduced from 15 mills to 10 mills.

IV

WITH THE INTRODUCTION of the 10-mill limitation it was necessary to further alter the state's tax system to seek other funds to close the revenue gap. The state decided to enter the sales tax field at this time, levying a three per cent tax on most all sales goods within the state. A portion of the receipts from this tax were passed back to the local districts to restore revenue which the 10-mill limitation had taken away.

About the same time, the state inaugurated what was known as the school foundation program, under which the state furnished a substantial portion of revenue for local school purposes. This was intended, also, to help the schools out of financial difficulties which they experienced under the 10-mill tax limit. It further was regarded as a recognition on the part of the state that it had an obligation to help finance local school operations. Educators had long promoted such an idea.

The tax changes of the early 1930's altered Findlay's tax picture greatly. In fact, they precipitated a financial crisis, particularly with regard to school operations. Several other communities with similar situations also experienced difficulties.

Under the old law, cities which were the homes of large, successful corporations found their tax revenue greatly enhanced through the uniform rule taxation of their ownership of stocks of other concerns and other similar equities which made up their surplus accounts. This rule, of course, applied to the total value of such ownership. As a consequence, revenue flowed into county treasuries in substantial sums from such sources, permitting some taxing districts to lower their local rates greatly, to the advantage of other property owners within the district. Findlay, for instance, had a tax rate as low as six mills at one time in the 1900's, and for a time thereafter. (The tax rate for 1964 stood at 35.60 mills by comparison). Findlay had a slogan of "lowest taxes and purest water" in Ohio. The fact was that this was the lowest tax levy in the entire state.

But the new classified method of taxation changed all this. Such property — the stocks in corporation surplus accounts — was now taxed on an income basis, at a rate of five per cent on the earnings in the form of dividends. This greatly reduced the taxes paid. Findlay, the home of a very large corporation, found its revenue substantially less. The tax rate had to be raised, of course, but with the 10-mill tax limitation imposed about the same time, the city found it necessary to enter a new tax area for sufficient revenue with which to function. Many Ohio cities for some years had had to obtain funds with which to properly operate by going to the people for authority to levy taxes outside the limitation by a vote of the

electorate. This was particularly true of schools. Findlay, however, had never had to resort to this method of obtaining funds because of its very favorable tax rate situation. Now, it was inescapable, however, and the Findlay board of education submitted a three-mill tax levy to the people in 1934. The city, however, had not become used to such procedure and had difficulty in comprehending the picture. The levy was defeated. Another method had been previously tried, but this, too, failed. The bonds for the new Lincoln and Washington elementary school buildings had been voted in 1914, with the provision that the taxes would be levied within the current 15-mill tax limitation. Now all such bonds are always voted outside any limitations, but in those days Findlay was able to build schools within the tax limits, because of its favorable position, tax-wise. But when the crisis developed early in the 1930's, some of the bonds were still outstanding and funds for their redemption had to be levied within the existing tax limits. The school authorities decided to ask the voters to set the remaining Lincoln and Washington school bonds outside the limits, thus releasing funds to become available within the limitation for operational purposes. But the people, still evidently not fully aware of the total picture, refused to do so, voting against a proposal for this purpose in 1933. The board of education, faced early in 1935 with a complete lack of funds, decided to close schools and ask for an emergency one-year tax levy of three-mills at a special election in mid-winter. The proposal passed and the schools re-opened. At the next election, a three-mill tax levy for school purposes for three years' duration was adopted and since then levies outside the tax limitation have been approved regularly, with only a few exceptions, recent rejections coming in two elections late in 1964. As of 1964, school operating levies which have been voted beyond the 10-mill tax limitation total 15.60 mills in the Findlay city school district. The city of Findlay also has an operating levy which has been voted outside the limitation, amounting to 2.80 mills.

V

TO ILLUSTRATE the elements that constitute a tax rate, this is how the Findlay tax rate of 35.60 mills was made up in 1964:

Within the 10-mill tax limitation, are rates as follows: schools 4.90 mills, city, 2.30 mills; county, 2.90 mills; firemen's pension, 0.30; policemen pension 0.30.

Outside the limitation are these voted levies: 15.60 mills for school operations; 2.80 mills for city operations; 0.20 mills for retirement of Korean war bonus bonds; 0.10 mills for mental health; 1.20 mills for retarded programs; 4.80 mills for school bonds; 0.30 mills for city improvement bonds; 0.60 mills for Blanchard Valley hospital bonds.

The county's tax machinery, under the laws of the state, is in charge of the county auditor, who also serves as the county's bookkeeper. He is responsible for the assessment of property, the filing of tax returns and the figuring of tax bills, as well as the general administration of the tax laws, locally.

Associated with him in the determination of tax rates are the county treasurer and the prosecuting attorney. Together these three constitute the county budget commission. They meet each year late in the summer or early fall to examine the budgets which are filed by the various taxing districts and fix the rates of taxation after relating the budgets to the new tax duplicate.

Also there is the county board of revision. This group consisting of the auditor, treasurer and president of the board of county commissioners, examines all complaints which may be filed against tax valuations.

The tax duplicate constitutes the listing of all property within the county for tax purposes, with valuations. The list is prepared annually by the county auditor and his staff.

Every six years, under the provisions of the Ohio law, there must be a reappraisal of real property within each county. All property must be examined anew to determine if the valuations are correct and in line with current standards. Some valuations may go down and some go up, as a consequence of this "new look" every six years.

The last reappraisal under the law took place in relation to the 1962 tax duplicate, in Hancock county.

Before the six-year rule went into effect in the 1930's, reappraisals were conducted on a somewhat irregular basis, as conditions prompted. There was a provision that boards of education could petition the county auditor for a reappraisal of real estate, sufficient signatures of taxpayers being required to make the petition effective. It is interesting to recall that the Findlay Board of Education took advantage of this provision of the law as it existed then and filed such a petition in the 1920's, requiring the county auditor to institute a complete reappraisal of real estate in Findlay. The board felt that values were too low and more tax revenue should be forthcoming to finance the local schools from real estate.

VI

THERE ARE 52 separate taxing districts within Hancock county. Each incorporated city or town as well as every one of the 17 townships constitute a taxing district. Then, there are the additional districts that come about because of overlapping school district boundaries. For instance, in Marion township, which adjoins Findlay on the east, there is a rate for that part of the township which is a part of the Findlay city school district, another for that part of the same township that belongs to the Van Buren school district, another for that part of the township which lies within the Riverdale school district and so on. The second ward of Fostoria, which lies within Hancock county, has its own tax rate, separate from that of the rest of Fostoria, the bulk of which is in Seneca county and a small part in Wood county.

The law provides that Dec. 20 of each year is the final date for the payment of either the entire tax assessed on real estate and public utilities or the first half of the total amount. However, the county commissioners

have authority to extend the date one month, upon request of the county treasurer. For further extensions, application must be made to the state tax authorities at Columbus. The second half is due by June 20 or later if the December date is changed. If the taxpayer elects he can pay in two installments. The assessment date for real property is January 1 of each year.

The distribution of the taxes received is made by the county auditor after the collection period closes.

The handling of tangible and intangible taxes is different. The law prescribes a filing deadline of April 30 for returns of property of this type. The returns for tangible personal property are filed as of Jan. 1 except for business property which is listed as of the close of business on the last day of December. For intangibles, the date of taxable status is Jan. 1 or the end of the fiscal year if taxpayer is authorized to file a federal election tax form. An exception is made in the case of deposits which are listed on a day in November fixed by the board of tax appeals. This date varies from year to year. It is not known ahead of time. In the case of banks, they are permitted to absorb the tax of depositors if they so elect. They do so in Hancock county. Tangible and intangible taxes are due on this basis: one half when return is filed; remainder by Sept. 20.

There is some variation as to date of return for financial institutions and dealers in intangibles, inter-county corporations and public utilities.

Tax rate structure involves several factors. This is governed entirely by state law. Within the 10 mills, the county budget commission must fix a rate for support of the county government, for the financing of the schools and for the needs of the individual township or municipality.

All rates beyond the 10 mills are beyond the authority of the budget commission. These can only be levied when the voters of the district involved have gone to the polls and approved proposals to go beyond the 10 mills, or when the state legislature imposes a levy of some kind.

When extra levies are voted, they continue at the rate approved at the polls, unless there has been a reappraisal and the valuation of the district has been increased. In the latter event, the levies must be pared down for the remainder of their life, in line with the amount of the valuation increase, so that the yield will continue on the same dollar level. State laws require this as a matter of equity.

Over and above the county tax machinery is that of the state, which supervises all the county tax operations. A state tax commissioner is appointed by the governor. In association with a state board of tax appeals, he administers the state's tax laws, counsels with local officials on tax matters and has charge of the collection of the state's own taxes, in co-operation with the state treasurer.

Chapter 17

Mayors of City of Findlay

I

FINDLAY has been electing mayors to head the municipal government since 1838, when the town was formally incorporated by act of the state legislature. A total of 42 men have served as mayor since the initial election in 1838.

Terms of office have always run for two years. However, the dates of election have changed at various times. In the early history of the community, city elections were held in April, instead of in November, as now. It was early in the 20th century that the change was made to the later date.

John Adams was the first Findlay mayor. He was elected in 1838, the town having been incorporated March 17 in that year. Findlay's actual birthday thus falls on St. Patrick's day.

Mr. Adams was one of the early cabinet and chair-makers of what was then the village of Findlay. He had come from Pennsylvania in 1835. He also was a wheelright and sometimes did painting. Findlay's first mayor was a believer in the advantages of newspaper advertising. His advertisement is found in the columns of the early weekly Courier not long after he settled here. He served one term as mayor and then in 1844 was elected county recorder, serving one term of three years. He later left Findlay to go to Texas, where he died.

Findlay's second mayor was William Porterfield, who also came to Hancock county in 1835, having previously lived in Knox county (Mt. Vernon). He formed a partnership with a brother-in-law to engage in merchandising. In later years he moved to Williamstown, then to Dunkirk and Galion, subsequently going to Council Bluffs, Ia. and later to Fremont, Neb.

U. A. Ogden succeeded Mr. Porterfield as mayor in 1845. He became one of the stockholders in the original bank planned for the community, known as the Hancock county Bank. It was scheduled to start business

in the same year in which he was elected mayor, but never opened its doors due to the fact that an easterner who had come to Findlay to promote the institution left town before the scheduled opening and never returned. Most of the leading citizens of the community had subscribed for stock.

The next mayor was Abraham Younkin. He was a tailor and was one of the organizers of the Odd Fellows lodge here in 1846. It was the first secret society to be formed in the community. A few years later — in 1852 — Mr. Younkin became one of the charter members of the Masonic lodge here. He was elected as the first worshipful master of the order. He later became a charter member of the Masonic Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, instituted in 1854. He served as mayor from 1847 to 1852.

George W. Galloway was Findlay's next mayor, serving for two years until 1854. He was a prominent leader in the town and was especially active in educational circles. He was a member of the Board of Education of the union school district for some years, the district having been formed and the local schools organized in 1853. He served as a member of the board when the old Central school on E. Sandusky St. was erected in 1868.

II

NEXT COMES Dr. Jacob Carr. He held the distinction of having served three terms, all in different decades. He was first elected mayor in 1854, then in 1864 and finally in 1876.

Dr. Carr, a dentist, was one of the best known of the early Findlay leaders. He also was in the hotel business and some records indicate that he had been admitted to the bar as a lawyer. His wife was the widow of Jacob Rosenberg, who had founded the Courier in 1836. Mr. Rosenberg, who had sold his newspaper, was operating a hotel at the southwest corner of S. Main St. and W. Crawford St., at the time of his death in 1844. The building in which he conducted the hotel had been the county's first court house, built in the 1830's. Mrs. Rosenberg continued to operate the hotel after Mr. Rosenberg's death and when she later married Dr. Carr the name was changed to "Carr's Hotel." The business was continued in this location until 1862 when the structure was moved to the site of the present Marathon Oil company building on S. Main st. and was occupied as the Carr family residence. At the Hardin Street corner stood the old First Presbyterian church and the Carr property was just to the north. A few years after the Carr home was established there, some parties interested Dr. Carr in helping them drill for oil or gas on a part of the property and a well was put down 141 feet when the drill stuck and the enterprise was abandoned.

The "Carr Hotel" had been moved from its Crawford and Main corner to make way for the present three-story structure, which was erected in 1864 by William H. Wheeler. It was long known as "Wheeler's block." The Carr property still exists here, now standing at 819 Park st. where it is a residence.

N. Y. Mefford succeeded Dr. Carr as mayor after the latter's first term.

Mr. Mefford, too, was a well known citizen and served as a member of the first Board of Education when the Union School District was organized in 1853. He was the owner of a residential property on E. Main Cross st., which he sold in 1847 to an educational institution, known as the Findlay Academical Institute. Mr. Mefford had musical talent, the records showing that he was a member of a trio which sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Hail Columbia" at a patriotic rally which was held in the community at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

Josiah C. Powell was Findlay's next mayor. He operated a large steam saw-mill north of the Blanchard river and east of Main st. He continued to run it until a boiler explosion caused its destruction in 1874. He also was a member of the committee which built the building now occupied by the Findlay Publishing company. It was erected as a church by a group which formed the First Congregational church. The building was constructed in 1867. (The publishing company bought the structure in 1909 to transform it into a newspaper plant.)

Charles C. Pomeroy came next in the succession of mayors. The D. B. Beardsley history of Hancock county says he came from Kentucky and describes him as a "most eccentric character." He was elected in the spring of 1858 and only served until July, when he resigned.

Ezra Brown took over the mayor's post when Mr. Pomeroy resigned. Mr. Brown came to Findlay in 1839 and became a lawyer here. He was elected to the city council and was serving in that body when he took office as mayor, upon Mr. Pomeroy's relinquishment of the duties. Mr. Brown, with Mr. Mefford, a predecessor, as mayor and Parlee Carlin, one of the town's early settlers, served as the first Board of Education with the formation of the Union School district in 1853.

III

FINDLAY'S NEXT MAYOR was Israel Green, who was to achieve national fame in connection with the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. Mr. Green, who became mayor in 1860, was a Findlay druggist, with his place of business situated where the Phoenix cafe now is located on S. Main st. across from the court house.

Mr. Green late in the 1850's conceived the idea that Lincoln was the man the new Republican party should nominate for president. The party, the successor of the old Whig party, had had its birth in 1856, when it ran its first presidential nominee, John C. Fremont, for the White House, unsuccessfully. Green wrote a letter to a Cincinnati newspaper, suggesting the Lincoln candidacy and he is credited with having been first to throw the Illinois lawyer's hat in the presidential ring. A historical publication of the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee tells the story of the Israel Green contribution to the Lincoln cause and authenticates it.

Mr. Green was a prominent citizen of the community and was a member of the committee which drafted the resolutions expressing the community's

sentiments when the Civil War broke out in 1861. They were presented at a patriotic rally a few days after war was declared.

George W. Twining was mayor of Findlay during most of the period of the Civil war. He served from 1861 through 1864. He was a member of a pioneer family which had settled in the eastern part of the county in the early days.

Again Dr. Carr came to the mayor's post to succeed Mr. Twining. This was his second experience in the mayor's office and was to be followed by a third term in the ensuing decade.

Nathaniel W. Filkin followed Dr. Carr in 1867, serving a single term. Mr. Filkin was a veteran of the Civil War and was the first of a series of veterans of the Great Rebellion whom the voters of the city were to so honor by placing them at the head of the municipal government.

Mr. Filkin was a cavalryman. He held the rank of major in the 10th United States Cavalry during the Civil war.

IV

COL. JAMES A. BOPE became mayor in 1868. He had been an infantry officer in the war and after the struggle was over, he was elected to the office of mayor of Findlay, serving one term in the office. Both before and after the war, he had served in the office of prosecuting attorney of Hancock county.

Col. Bope, who was the grandfather of Municipal Judge James A. Bope, came to Findlay in 1859. He was a native of Adams county, later moved to Fairfield county and was graduated from Wittenberg College at Springfield. He practiced law two years at Lancaster before coming to Findlay.

During Col. Bope's term as mayor, the city embarked upon its first efforts to provide a municipal sewer and drainage system. Legislation was enacted to this end and the first sewers were constructed in the late 1860's.

Succeeding Col. Bope was another Civil war veteran and a Findlay lawyer, George F. Pendleton, who served for one term starting in 1870. He was a native of Maine and came with his family to Hancock county when he was but one year old. He joined his father and brother in the service in the Civil war.

He became a lawyer after the war and was elected to the common pleas judgeship in 1883, an office to be filled later by his son, Chester Pendleton. He served on the bench for seven years, holding this office at the time the present county court house was built. He also served as school examiner and for four years was prosecuting attorney of Hancock county.

Daniel B. Beardsley next occupied the mayoralty post, serving a single term. He was a native of Licking county (Newark) and came here in 1834. He was a teacher for some years and later studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. He was the author of a history of Hancock county published in 1881. He was secretary of the county fair for many years.

Mr. Beardsley served for a period of 27 years as justice of the peace in Findlay. He was a lawyer here for 37 years.

The fourth lawyer in succession in the office of Findlay's mayor was William Gribben, who served one term starting in 1874. He was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio in 1826, settling with his family in Ashland. He was admitted to the bar in 1850 and located in Findlay.

In 1853, he was elected prosecuting attorney and served two terms. He served in the state legislature in 1862-63 but lost his seat for a second term in a post-election contest.

Dr. Carr became mayor for his third term, following Mr. Gribben's tenure.

V

IN 1878, William Vance, a descendent of Wilson Vance, who laid out the town in the 1820's, became mayor. He was a Civil war veteran, having served as a lieutenant in one of the 21st regiment companies. Mr. Vance was an active leader in the formation of the initial Civil war veterans' organization, in 1866. He was a commander of the post at one time. Mr. Vance served two terms as mayor for a total of four years.

Following Mr. Vance in the mayoralty was William W. Siddall, who likewise served two terms. He also held the office of clerk of courts in Hancock county for nine years between 1855 and 1864.

William L. Carlin served one term as mayor beginning in 1886. He was a grandson of Squire Carlin, who came here in the early 1820's to help establish the town. The grandfather was still living when Mr. Carlin served as mayor. The father of the mayor was Dr. William D. Carlin, who was a surgeon in the Civil war, losing his life in the conflict.

Mr. Carlin served a term in the state senate from this district from 1888 to 1890. A son and a grandson also entered the field of public service. Rawson K. Carlin was judge of the municipal court which was established for a time in Findlay shortly after 1900. A grandson is William J. Carlin, who served as mayor of Findlay from 1956 to 1964.

Mr. Carlin was elected to the state senate before his term as mayor was over. Succeeding him as mayor was Joseph R. Kagy who was named to the post by city council, of which he was a member. Mr. Kagy had previously served as auditor of Hancock county. Additionally, he served as a member of the board of school examiners, assistant clerk of the Ohio senate at Columbus, deputy state superintendent of insurance and roll clerk in the pension department of the state. He later entered the insurance business here.

In 1888, Theodore Totten, a native of Staten Island, N. Y. became mayor of Findlay. More than 25 years later, he was to become mayor again. He enlisted in the navy at 15 and came to Findlay at the close of the Civil war in which he participated. He managed the Western Union

telegraph office here and studied law, gaining admittance to the bar. He served a term as prosecuting attorney and in 1904 was named postmaster of Findlay, continuing for two four-year terms. He was reelected mayor in 1915.

During the latter part of the term of Mr. Siddall and through the tenures of Mr. Carlin, Mr. Kagy and Mr. Totten, Findlay experienced its great oil and gas boom and the responsibilities of the mayor's office were unusually heavy because of the community's sudden growth.

Thomas Meehan became Findlay's mayor in 1890. Mr. Meehan, who was of Irish descent, served one term in the office of mayor. Many interesting stories were told of his Irish wit, especially, when he presided over the police court.

VI

SUCCESSING HIM was Beecher W. Waltermire, a Findlay attorney and well known as an orator and author of a volume of poetry and other literary work. Mr. Waltermire, who served one term, was in much demand as a speaker and as a reader of his poems, one of which "When We Struck Ile," was a great favorite with his audiences.

Mr. Waltermire, in 1912, became the candidate of the Republican party in Ohio for lieutenant-governor, but lost out in the Democratic landslide. He later was named a member of the state public utilities commission in 1915 and moved to Columbus where he later practiced law until his death.

George Nemeyer followed Mr. Waltermire as mayor. He was in the cigar manufacturing business and served one term from 1894 to 1896. He served a second term, however, two years later. Mr. Nemeyer became a member of the Hancock county board of elections later in his career and served a number of terms in this capacity.

David T. Winders was elected mayor for the 1896-98 term, following Mr. Nemeyer's first term. Mr. Winders, a member of a prominent Findlay family, was once associated with the Patterson dry goods firm and later with the Schwartz Bros. grocery here, having been a son-in-law of Henry Schwartz, founder of the firm, which was long one of the city's well known food concerns. Mr. Winders later moved to Columbus to engage in the automobile business.

Mr. Nemeyer succeeded him in 1898 and served his third and fourth years in the mayoralty.

The new century found Charles E. Watson in the mayor's office for a term of two years starting in 1900. He had been a member of the city council and was connected with a local industrial concern.

C. B. Metcalf became mayor in 1902. Mr. Metcalf, who served two terms, was a contractor. He had previously held public office, having been auditor of Hancock county from 1890 to 1896. He also was chairman of the board of trustees for Findlay's first public library.

It is interesting, politically, that beginning in the mid-eighties, a Republican and a Democrat followed each other for each succeeding term in an unbroken string of elections in the city until Mr. Metcalf, a Democrat, was followed by a fellow Democrat in 1906.

VII

JAMES B. WALKER succeeded Mr. Metcalf and served two terms as mayor. He was a Civil war veteran, having been wounded in several engagements, including Bull Run. He came to Hancock county in 1888 to enter the oil business.

Mr. Walker became known as "Dandelion Jim" during his regime as mayor, because of his interest in ridding Findlay of dandelions.

During the 1900-10 decade, two major events occupied the attention of the city's mayors. The city decided to change its source of water supply, bringing water here from Limestone Ridge, nine miles east of Findlay, instead of relying upon private water wells for each home and the river for fires. Too, Riverside park came into being during the period as a municipal pleasure resort.

E. L. Groves became Findlay's mayor in 1910, defeating Mr. Walker for re-election. Mr. Groves, a native of Blanchard township, had previously served two terms as sheriff of Hancock county.

During his incumbency, Findlay and Hancock county marked their 100th anniversary. It had been an even century since Col. Findlay and his forces built their fort on the banks of the Blanchard river. Mr. Groves served as general chairman of the centennial committee. He was to become Findlay's mayor for further terms a little later in his career.

After two terms, Mr. Groves was succeeded by William J. Frey as mayor. Mr. Frey, a druggist here for many years, had been county treasurer a few years earlier. He was one of the leaders in the movement to bring Findlay's water supply from Limestone Ridge. During a considerable portion of his term, Mr. Frey was in ill health and for some time was unable to transact much municipal business, his service and safety directors assisting him in guiding city affairs. He had achieved state-wide recognition in the Democratic party, serving for a time as state chairman. At one time he declined an offer of his party's nomination for governor of Ohio.

In 1916, Theodore Totten became mayor again, more than a quarter century after his initial term as mayor. He died during his term and P. S. Shoupe, president of city council, succeeded him in the mayoralty in 1917.

Mr. Shoupe was then elected to a two-year term which ran until 1920. He served as mayor during the period the United States was in World War I. Among the critical issues which the war brought was a fuel shortage and Mr. Shoupe, in his capacity as city executive, found it necessary to confiscate several railroad cars of coal to enable citizens to keep their homes and business houses warm and factories operating. This practice was followed in practically all Ohio communities at times during the severe winter of the conflict.

In 1920, T. Mell Mitchell became mayor, serving one term. Mr. Mitchell was identified with farm and oil interests here.

Mr. Mitchell was followed by another mayor who also served a single term — Harry R. Rodabaugh. He was in the insurance business and had come to Findlay from Kenton. Mr. Rodabaugh, during his incumbency, ran for his party's nomination for Congress from the 8th Ohio district, but was defeated. He later moved to Fremont.

VIII

E. L. GROVES was elected mayor in 1923 again and served four consecutive terms, making six in all, including the two terms in 1910-14. With his dozen years of service, he established a record held by no other city executive in the long period dating back to 1838, when the city elected its first mayor.

During the Groves administration, the city constructed its modern waterworks plant on N. Blanchard St., replacing the old plant at Riverside park.

Homer O. Dorsey won the mayoralty in the 1931 election, defeating Mr. Groves at the polls. He served four terms or eight years in the office of mayor. Mr. Dorsey had served Hancock county for three terms as probate judge earlier.

During the Dorsey regime as mayor, the city's tax picture changed substantially with drastic alterations in the state laws, substituting a 10-mill limitation for 15 mills on realty. This situation brought serious financial issues which had to be faced. The depression problems also came in for much attention at this time.

Cloyce H. Duttweiler was Findlay's next mayor, his period of service covering three terms from 1940 through 1945. Mr. Duttweiler had previously served as president of the city council for several terms before being elected mayor.

Mr. Duttweiler was mayor through the entire period of World War II, which brought many critical matters to the city hall. Mr. Duttweiler helped guide the city's post-war plans as the conflict came to a close during his final year in the mayoralty.

Clarence H. Gassman succeeded Mr. Duttweiler as mayor in 1946, serving one term. Mr. Gassman had been clerk of the war rationing board during World War II and had been engaged in business activities prior to that time. He served as mayor during the first years of Findlay's return to a peace-time basis, after nearly four years of war.

Mr. Gassman served as Findlay's postmaster for a period, after leaving the mayor's office.

Succeeding him as mayor was Clifford Glathart, who took office at the start of 1948. Mr. Glathart, a veteran of World War II, was a Findlay attorney. His father had served as county engineer and city engineer.

Mr. Glathart was re-elected in 1950 for a second term but during the early months of his new tenure, he was called back into military service,

with the outbreak of the Korean conflict. He resigned his municipal post and after his war service went to Chicago to practice law.

Chester P. Smith, who had been serving as president of the city council, became mayor with Mr. Glathart's departure. Mr. Smith, a monument dealer, and a veteran of world war I, had been a member of city council and later its president for some years. He continued as mayor until 1956.

During Mr. Smith's incumbency, plans for a Findlay highway by-pass were successfully developed, providing badly needed traffic relief on Findlay streets, zoning was inaugurated, off street automobile parking became a reality on a broad scale and the city's waterworks and sewage disposal systems were expanded.

William J. Carlin was elected to the mayoralty in 1955 and served four terms. A former state commander of the Amvets, Mr. Carlin is an attorney. A municipal parking garage was constructed, off-street automobile parking continued to be expanded, fire department facilities were improved, with a new central fire station, and other municipal improvements were made during Mr. Carlin's mayoralty.

In 1963, John C. Sausser was elected mayor and at the time of this volume's publication was at the helm of the municipal government. Mr. Sausser, a lawyer, heads a steel business in Findlay.

Chapter 18

Milestones of Historical Significance in Hancock County

Hancock county history abounds in a variety of exceedingly interesting developments. In this chapter will be found some of those which are of especial appeal.

I

FOUR FINDLAY BUSINESS FIRMS date their origin back to the period before or during the Civil war.

Findlay's daily newspaper, the Republican-Courier, published its first issue as the "Findlay Courier" Nov. 10, 1836. A newspaper bearing the name "Courier" has appeared continuously ever since in the community. The 1836 newspaper was a weekly. The Courier became a daily in 1887, after two other weeklies which had started in the town had evolved into daily publications a few years earlier. The "Republican" part of the name of Findlay's newspaper of today comes from a newspaper which started in 1879 as a weekly and became a daily in 1886. The Republican and Courier came under joint ownership in 1926 and were merged as a single newspaper Jan. 1, 1933.

The Patterson department store traces its origin to 1849. The store has continued under the control of the Patterson family from the beginning, J. S. Patterson having been the original member of the family in the business. The firm is one of a very few retail businesses in the United States to remain in one family for 100 years or more. J. S. Patterson who came here from Bellefontaine was one of Findlay's early leaders. He passed away in 1913. His two sons, Charles W. and Frank T. Patterson succeeded him, the latter retiring later from the business. The former remained active in the business until his death at 91 in 1946. His son, Col. Arthur D. Patterson, also deceased, was his successor.

Another member of this trio of pioneer business enterprises in the community is the First National Bank of Findlay, which was established in June 1863. It was one of the first banks in the entire United States to be formed under banking laws as they exist today. Its charter is No. 36. The first officers and organizers were E. P. Jones, president, and Charles E. Niles, cashier. With the death of the former in 1894, Mr. Niles became president and George P. Jones, son of the first president, was elected cashier. Both Mr. Niles and George P. Jones served as presidents of the Ohio Bankers association. The bank's resources today exceed \$50,000,000, with deposits of more than \$46,000,000.

The Central Drug store dates its history back to the mid 1860's. The present drug business was established around the time of the close of the Civil war and ownership has changed hands a number of times over the years. The store has been in its present location for the greater part of the time since its origin.

II

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD in California in 1848 did not escape the attention of Findlay and Hancock county. The excitement which the discovery aroused over the country captivated a number of residents of the local community and they decided to join the rush to the Pacific coast to share in the new riches.

A company was organized early in 1849 to cross the plains and explore the gold bearing regions of California. A total of around 50 joined in the expedition, including Squire Carlin, one of the town's pioneer citizens.

The party left Findlay March 3, 1849, going via Carey and Cincinnati and from there by boat to St. Joseph, Mo. They then proceeded to Independence, Mo., central point of most departures for the west. On May 3, 1849, they started across the plains with eight wagons which they had purchased at Independence. They reached Weaverville, Calif., in September, disbanding there to go their own ways. Within two or three years, most of them were back home, without much evidence of having enriched themselves to any great extent. Some had died on the way or in the west and some remained in California.

III

CENSUS FIGURES show the high value Findlay and Hancock county place upon education.

The latest figures (1960 federal census) shows that men 25 years and older in Hancock county have completed, on an average, 11.9 years of schooling; that is, all the customary grades of elementary and junior high school and almost all of high school. Women in this category have completed 12.1 years of schooling, or all of high school and a small amount of college.

Only two counties (Geauga and Greene) among the entire 88 in Ohio have a better record for the men. Geauga, on the edge of Cleveland and Greene on the edge of Dayton, each have a record of 12 years for the men.

For the women, Hancock ranks at the top with Greene and Geauga, Lake and Medina counties, all possessing a figure of 12.10 years. Lake and Medina border Cleveland.

There were 1,379 men college graduates in Hancock county in the 1960 census and 886 women. But there were 5,582 women who were high school graduates and 4,120 men.

In the 1950 census, men and women were combined, with the following result for the top counties in the state.

Greene county, 11.6 years.

Franklin county (Columbus), 11.3 years.

Hancock county, 11.1 years.

The 1960 federal census did not combine men and women, as was the case in the 1950 census.

Recent years have witnessed a steadily increasing number of high school graduates going to college, locally, and the 1960 census figures reflect this situation.

IV

JOHNNY APPLESEED, the eccentric individual who made a business of planting apple trees, in the early days of Ohio's development, was frequently a visitor in Hancock county and owned a nursery in Mt. Blanchard at one time in his career.

His real name was John Chapman and he was born in 1774 in Leominster, Mass. His father fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. When a youth he decided to travel westward, developing an interest in trees and establishing nurseries in many areas.

His travels took him along the Blanchard river in Hancock county. He bought a tract of land in 1834 consisting of three lots in Mt. Blanchard from Asa Lake who had laid out the town in 1830. He paid \$15 for them. He planted a nursery upon the lots, which he sold in 1839 to Michael Shaffer for \$40. The two deeds are recorded in the official records at the Hancock county Court House.

He died in 1845 and was buried in Fort Wayne, Ind. Numerous memorials have been erected to honor his memory over the country. Among them are markers at Mansfield, Ashland and Fort Wayne.

The state of Ohio has honored him by designating a highway from Marysville to Toledo through Kenton, Findlay and Bowling Green as the "Johnny Appleseed highway". Appropriate markers are found along the route, which starts at Marysville, following state route No. 31 to Kenton, thence on north on U. S. route No. 68 to Findlay and U. S. route No. 25 to Toledo.

THE BLANCHARD RIVER, the stream that flows through Findlay and Hancock county, is a watercourse which has become famous.

It is the "stream" of the popular song "Down by the Old Mill Stream", which has been sung by millions around the world. The ballad and music were composed by Tell Taylor, a native of Hancock county.

The author was born on a farm east of Findlay and became a musical comedy performer. The home farm had a mill along the Blanchard river and Tell spent many hours in his youth at the mill.

He composed the song around 1910. He told friends the inspiration came to him while seated on the banks of the river not far from the Country club. In his mind were thoughts of a Findlay girl, whom he adored.

Some few years later, some friends of his who had made up a quartet asked him if he had something they might sing. He told them to try "Down By the Old Mill Stream", which the world was yet to hear. It proved an immediate hit. He copyrighted it in 1910 and the copyright was later renewed. Millions of copies have been sold.

He wrote a number of other songs, but none ever achieved the success of "Down by the Old Mill Stream".

He returned to Findlay in the latter years of his life and spent several years here before his death in 1937. He is buried in the Van Horn cemetery in Amanda township. On the monument are enscribed some of the bars of the music of "Down by the Old Mill Stream" and some of the words.

The large brick home adjoining the Hancock county fair grounds on the west was the Taylor residence for a number of years and the fair grounds bear the Mill Stream name.

He wrote a sequel to "Down by the Old Mill Stream" later in life, but it never attained the popularity of the original.

VI

HANCOCK COUNTY'S PIONEERS laid out a number of villages which never got beyond the planning stage. The records at the Court House show they were platted with lots on paper, but the dreams of their sponsors for the most part were never realized. Two or three did manage to become actual towns, only to later lose their identity.

Cannonsburg became a small village in Union township west of Jenera and south of Rawson. It was laid out in 1839. A postoffice was established and there were several stores and around 75 inhabitants at one time. The village had two churches. Cannonsburg preceeded the origin of Rawson and Jenera by quite a number of years. The town gradually disappeared although managing to continue as a small settlement until around the turn of the century.

A town called Lewisville was laid out in 1851 in eastern Blanchard township on what is now U. S. highway No. 224. A general store was opened, a school built and several homes erected. After some years, the town disappeared.

Other towns which were laid out but which never became permanent realities included the following:

Capernaum, Amanda township; Frankford, Cass township; Freedom, Biglick township; Jamestown, Amanda township; LaFayette, Portage township; Martinstown, Jackson township; North Liberty, Jackson township; North Ridgeville, Pleasant township; Olney, Pleasant township; Ridgeville, Amanda township; West Union, Van Buren township; Waterloo, Madison township.

VII

IN HANCOCK COUNTY CEMETERIES are buried a bodyguard of George Washington and a soldier who was a survivor of Napoleon's famous retreat from Moscow in 1812.

Jacob Fox, who served five years as a bodyguard of George Washington, is buried in the Flick cemetery in Union township. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and came to Hancock county in 1830, when in his sixties. He died Aug. 16, 1848 when 85 years old.

Christian Crates was a native of Alsace-Lorraine and served as a soldier in Napoleon's army. He is buried in the Bishop cemetery in Eagle township. He died May 18, 1870 when 76 years old.

Descendents of both men are well known Hancock county residents.

VIII

HANCOCK COUNTY has furnished presidents of three of the largest Universities in the United States.

One was Dr. William Wallace Campbell, who was president of the University of California. He was born April 11, 1862 in Washington township. He attended the rural schools in that northeastern Hancock county township and then went to high school at Fostoria. His parents were Robert Wilson and Harriet Welch Campbell.

He taught school a few years and then went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Mich., as an engineering student. He became a member of the faculty of the University of Colorado after receiving his degree at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Campbell eventually went to the Pacific coast and in 1900 became director of the famous Lick observatory. In 1922 he was elected president of the University of California.

Another Hancock county born educator was Dr. Heck Marvin who served as president of the University of Arizona at Tuscon, Ariz., and also of George Washington University at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Marvin, a native of Findlay, attended Findlay high school and then went to California to complete his education, graduating from the University of Southern California. His father, Cloyd Marvin, was one of the original members of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher's predecessor, the Van Buren, Heck and Marvin company.

He became head of the University of Arizona in 1922 and then was elected president of George Washington University in 1927.

He has received many honors in his long educational career. At Washington he has served as advisor to many top officials by appointment. He served as an air captain in World War I.

In 1965, he returned to Findlay to receive the Fort Findlay award, bestowed annually by the Findlay Area Chamber of Commerce, to some one who has gone from the old home town to establish distinguished records elsewhere.

Dr. Homer R. Dunathan, of Findlay served as president of Findlay College for a long period. He is a graduate of the institution. Dr. Dunathan later went to Toledo to join the faculty of Toledo University and is now retired.

Dr. Charles B. Ketchum, who spent a portion of his young manhood here, was president of Mt. Union College, Alliance O., for some years. His father was pastor of the Howard Methodist church in Findlay in the early years of the century. Dr. Ketchum, who was a student at Findlay College, went to Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware to complete his education.

J. Jerome Welty, a native of Williamstown, in Hancock county, was president of Florida State Normal College in 1896-97. He later engaged in the practice of law. He died in 1934.

More recently, Harold R. Shively, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tola R. Shively, of McComb, has become president of the North Shore Community College in Beverly, Mass. He is a graduate of Ohio State University and has had a distinguished career in education.

IX

TWO MEMBERS of the theatrical profession whose roots were in Hancock county reached the top in their chosen field. They were Marilyn Miller and Marie Dressler.

Marilyn Miller was a musical comedy star who was the leading singer in the Ziegfeld Follies in the 1920's, in New York. Her "Look for the Silver Lining" won her great fame.

Born in Louisville, Ky., she came to Findlay with her family in her very early years around the turn of the century. With her stepfather and her mother and her two sisters, she appeared for some years in a dancing act known as "The Five Columbians," which won high acclaim in vaudeville circles.

She later went to Broadway and became a musical comedy star. Illness in the 1930's proved fatal.

A motion picture was made of her life story and her Findlay connections were featured in the film.

The other Findlay performer, Marie Dressler, only lived in Findlay a half dozen years or so around the time of the oil and gas boom in the neighborhood of the 1890's. She came here as a child and the family resided at Liberty St.

Her biggest fame was won in the motion picture world. She became a star of the first magnitude and was a top performer in many films that proved highly successful.

X

ONE OF FINDLAY'S residents represented the United States in international competition at one time in the sports field.

Mrs. Warren Bell (Peg Kirk) was a member of the American group of four women golfers who were members of the Curtis cup team in the 1950's. The team went to Great Britain to participate in the matches with representatives of that country.

Mrs. Bell was chosen to be a member of the team by virtue of her outstanding success and brilliant play on the golf courses of her home country. She won a number of honors in America and was Ohio women's golf champion several times. The Findlay Country club was her home course.

XI

IN THE 1830's, Ohio and Michigan had a serious dispute with regard to the matter of just where the boundary line between the two states was located. It became known as the "Toledo war," because the area in the neighborhood of that city was involved.

The situation became so critical that governors of both states called out their troops to defend their positions. A group of between 50 and 60 Findlay and Hancock county men responded to the call, under the leadership of Jonathan Parker, one of the early settlers and leaders of the little community, which was only a dozen years or so old at the time.

The local group left home and proceeded to a rendezvous near Toledo. However, there was no military encounter because the dispute was resolved, but it took White House intervention at Washington to achieve a satisfactory settlement.

XII

A HANCOCK COUNTY NATIVE, Dr. Howard T. Ricketts, achieved fame by discovering the bacillus involved in Rocky Mountain spotted fever. For this and other noteworthy discoveries in the field of public health, he has been highly honored.

Dr. Ricketts, born in 1871, seven miles south of Findlay, was a son of Duncan and Jennie (Taylor) Ricketts. He was graduated from Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill. and became a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago.

He went to Montana in 1906 after a serious epidemic of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Through his experiments there, he was able to discover the cause of this dread ailment. He later went to Mexico to investigate a Mexican typhus fever. While there he contracted the disease and died May 3, 1911.

Chapter 19

Many Historical Sites of Significance Exist in City and County

There are many important historical sites in Findlay and Hancock county. Some of them are marked and some are not.

Here are some of the community's historical sites:

1. The location of Fort Findlay at the northwest corner of South Main street and West Front street, where the fort was erected in 1812 by Col. James Findlay, in connection with the movement of troops north to Detroit in the war of 1812.

2. The location of Fort Necessity on the Hancock-Hardin county boundary line just west of U. S. Highway No. 68. Here Col. Findlay was halted for a time by the wet ground conditions in his march north. He built a small fortification before continuing on north to the Blanchard river where Fort Findlay was built. A monument marks this location.

3. The location of Findlay's first public school at the northwest corner of East Crawford street and East street, where the armory now stands. The log structure was built in 1827.

4. The location of Findlay's first church, built in 1836 by the Methodists, on East Main Cross street on the property just east of the Harrington garage. Two years later in 1838, the Presbyterians built a church which stood at East Crawford street, where the Fassett Lumber company building now stand at the corner of East street.

5. Johnny Appleseed's nursery in Mount Blanchard. This is located along the Blanchard river. He owned the plot of ground in the 1830's and the deeds of purchase and later sale are on record at the Court House. He followed the course of the Blanchard River in his travels through this part of Ohio and was a familiar figure to the early settlers.

6. The site of the first Hancock county Court House. This was located at the southwest corner of South Main street and West Crawford street, where the Jones block now stands. The building was built in 1833 and continued to serve as the Court House until 1842 when a new building was erected on the site of the present Court House. This second Court House was replaced by the present structure in 1888. The first Court House now stands at 819 Park street. It has been converted into a residence.

7. The 41st parallel which crosses Hancock county east and west about midway between the north and south boundaries of the county. Its location is only a short distance south of the Findlay corporation about where Eagle township road No. 145 is located. (The 40th parallel bisects the Ohio State University campus in Columbus.) About a half mile below the parallel is the base line, which is exactly in the center of Hancock county, running east and west. Township road No. 80 is on the base line, which was projected in the early 1880's as an aid to land measurement.

8. The site of the first dwelling erected in Findlay. This was located on the east side of South Main street between the Blanchard river and East Front street. The home was later moved to East Front street and stood for many years where the Fornes Brake Service building is now located. It was a florist shop for some years.

9. The location of Camp Neibling, where Hancock county's Civil war volunteers were trained initially. It was situated at the northeast intersection of South Blanchard street and Blanchard avenue. At the time this was the site of the county's first fair ground, which had been acquired in 1859. The camp was named in honor of Col. James M. Neibling, the commander of the forces.

10. The site of Camp Vance, where Hancock county's Civil war soldiers later assembled for military training. This was located in the vicinity of the Eastman Kodak Processing Laboratory on East Main Cross street. This camp was named in honor of Wilson Vance, who laid out the town of Findlay in the early 1820's.

11. The underground railroad station at Williamstown. This was a "transfer" point for runaway slaves in the Civil war, who were heading north for safety and protection.

12. The site of the Jeffersonian, one of Findlay's early weeklies, when it contained the famous Nasby letters which were written by David R. Locke (Petroleum V. Nasby), and which are credited with helping win the war for the north. The Jeffersonian offices were located in the Headquarters block at the northeast corner of South Main street and East Main Cross street.

13. The site of the famous Oesterlen gas well which proved the existence of gas underlying the city in December, 1884. The well site is on the western side of the Hancock county fair grounds and the well still produces gas.

14. The location of the famous Karg gas well on the bank of the Blanchard river at the foot of Liberty street. It was completed in January, 1886 and its tremendous volume started the city's great gas boom.
15. The site of the first oil well to be drilled in Findlay. It was the Matthias well, located on the west edge of the city on West Main Cross street. The well was completed in 1885.
16. The site of the first Findlay offices of the Ohio Oil Company. They were located in a dwelling which stood at the northwest corner of West Main Cross street and South Cory street. After the company had been incorporated at Lima in 1887, during the oil boom in this area, a general field office was established in Findlay in 1889 in the West Main Cross street location. The senior high school now corners on this property.
17. The site of Findlay's oldest retail establishment, the Patterson department store, located at the northwest corner of South Main street and West Sandusky street. The store is now 112 years old.
18. The original location of the First National Bank of Findlay, the community's oldest financial institution, which was established in 1863 in quarters on South Main street just beyond West Sandusky street.
19. The site of Indian Green, an Indian town, once located on the banks of the Blanchard river six miles west of Findlay.
20. The location of the first county-owned fairgrounds at the northeast corner of South Blanchard street and Blanchard avenue. The property was bought in 1859. For seven years previous to that time, the county had leased grounds for fair purposes along the river on what later came to be known as the old brick yard, across from the sewage disposal plant.
21. The site of the county's first jail. This was located on South Main street, a few doors south of the Court House. It was built in 1830. Later the county's second jail was located a few doors north of the present jail on Broadway. The present jail was erected in 1879.
22. The intersection of South Main street and Lima street, where in 1905 a golden spike was driven to complete the connection between the newly built Western Ohio Electric line and the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction Co. street car lines. With this connection, four states — Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania — were linked with electric lines that interconnected. The golden spike was driven late on the afternoon of Dec. 30 and an elaborate banquet followed at the Phoenix hotel to signalize the historic occasion.
23. The location of the first brick residence built in Hancock county. It was erected in 1830 by William Taylor on Broadway just behind the Ohio Bank and Savings company building. The structure stood for many years and was only razed in the 1930's.

24. The location of Findlay's first waterworks which was built in the 1880's within what is now Riverside park. This continued in use until a little over 30 years ago when the present modern waterworks was built on North Blanchard street.

25. The first known location of Findlay's postoffice on East Sandusky street just off South Main street. The office was here around the time of the Civil war, it is known. Later it was moved to several other locations until the present new structure was occupied in the 1930's.

26. The site of the county's first grist and saw mill, built by Wilson Vance, who laid out the town of Findlay. The mill was located just north of the Blanchard river. It was erected in 1824, only a couple years after Mr. Vance came here to form the town, his brother having acquired title to the property from the government a short time before.

27. The location of the first railroad depot in Findlay. It was established in November, 1849 at the foot of East Crawford street. The railroad ran to Carey and eventually became known as the Big Four. It went out of business in the early 1930's between Findlay and Vanlue.

28. The location of the old Misamore mill in Amanda township. It was this mill, situated near the Van Horn cemetery, along the Blanchard river, which inspired Tell Taylor to write his famous song "Down by the Old Mill Stream." Some parts of the old mill still remain. It was one of many such operations started in the early days for the convenience of the farmers.

29. The site of the town's first newspaper, the Courier, in the 400 block on the west side of South Main street.

30. The site of the first retail store, opened by Squire Carlin in 1826, at the southwest corner of South Main street and West Front street.

Chapter 20

Once Upon A Time

Looking backward always holds considerable interest. Here are some recollections of other days in Findlay and Hancock county.

THE CENTER of Findlay's business district was the three-story Glass Block at W. Sandusky and S. Main Sts., with its huge line of merchandise from rugs and clothing to jewelry and food. Its sparkling fountain in the middle of the store was one of its big attractions and it became the popular meeting place of the city when one was downtown.

The Findlay Public Library was housed in crowded quarters in the southwest corner of the Court House and Miss Mary Morrison was the accommodating librarian. There it remained until the middle 1930's when the present library building was occupied on Broadway, providing the city with more modern and adequate library facilities.

Findlay's movie houses included such names as Victory and Mystic and you could see the latest thriller for only a nickel shortly after the turn of the century. There was usually a piano player whose tunes contributed much to the general entertainment, which usually featured such attractions as "The Perils of Pauline" or a Charlie Chaplin episode.

I

FINDLAY's Ray Harroun won the first Indianapolis motor speedway race back in 1911. He was a local boy who became fascinated with the new method of travel when it came in with the new century and his interest led him on until he became the owner of a car which he was convinced could make the grade in the speedway classic which was just being inaugurated; and he did, bringing fame to himself and his home town.

Findlay was the center of the mask manufacturing business in the United States; the plant, located on W. Main Cross St. just across the railroad tracks which was established by the Kirsten family, was for years the only such concern in the entire country. The New Orleans Mardi Gras relied solely on the Findlay establishment for years for its bizarre transformations.

Findlay secured its summer ice supply from the Blanchard river, the ice being harvested during the winter while the stream was solidly frozen and then stored in saw dust in the huge ice house along the river on the spot where the Green Mill Garden now stands. The ice wagons that traveled the city's streets in the summer months were long a most familiar sight.

II

THERE WERE between 30 to 40 passenger trains operating in and out of Findlay daily on five steam railroads. Three of them ended and began their runs in Findlay. You could go just about anywhere and at any time on a railroad in those days. In addition to Findlay's five lines, the rails of three others crossed or touched various areas of Hancock County to provide further service to the community.

There were three sets of gas mains beneath the Findlay streets. The first mains were laid in 1874 for an artificial gas plant, which had received a franchise. The Findlay Natural Gas company in 1885 piped gas from the newly discovered Oesterlen well into the city. Then in 1886, the city itself went into the gas business with its own mains.

The Joy House was Findlay's popular hotel. It stood at the southwest corner of S. Main St. and W. Sandusky St. All the city's visiting celebrities stopped there. It was widely and favorably known for its genial hospitality. A. and D. Joy were the owners and hosts. The latter also was interested in politics and served as a state senator at one time.

Findlay had a navy of its own, the fleet operating on an extensive scale between the Main St. bridge and Riverside park. The water craft transported people to and from the park. One boat, the Pastime, was considerably larger than the others and had a special dock of its own. The Blanchard was a busy stream with all the traffic of those days.

III

DOLLAR RAILROAD EXCURSIONS to Lake Erie points were extremely popular with Findlay people. Cedar Point, Put-in Bay and Lakeside were the popular attractions. Sunday schools, lodges and other groups sponsored those week-day excursions which took as many as six or seven hundred people at a time on the 10 to 12-coach special trains to the lake resorts almost every week during the summer time.

Drug stores and confectionery establishments closed down their ice cream and soda fountains late in the fall to remain closed until the following spring. It was believed to be too cold to eat ice cream when the temperature was low. You couldn't buy it anywhere in the winter time. It was always a great day when the fountains were opened up again in the early spring.

During a big storm, the John Hancock statue fell from its perch atop the Hancock County court house back in the late 1920's. The statue landed in the awning outside the probate court offices. A Columbus firm was engaged to return the 16-foot high figure to its lofty perch. The statue of the man

for whom the county was named cost the county \$950 when the court house was built in the late 1880's.

IV

THE TANK WAGONS of the oil companies made daily trips around the town to enable homes to replenish their supply of kerosene for their lamps. Many homes well into the century had not installed electric lights yet and the tank wagons were on the streets every day to help homes keep their containers of kerosene filled, much like the milk delivery trucks make their rounds today.

A popular winter sport consisted of sleigh races on some of the city's streets, particularly W. Sandusky St. Horse lovers who owned animals that could step lively would challenge each other and some spirited matches were a feature of the winter season, when the snow was heavy enough. The races attracted a great deal of interest and sizeable crowds were always on hand for them.

Drinking fountains or watering places for horses were to be seen over the city. Many city people had their own horses and buggies in the old days and many farmers drove to the city with their rigs or wagons and water for Old Dobbin was a necessity. So huge stone containers for such purposes were to be seen at various points to satisfy the thirst of the faithful animals.

The old Chicago block was a N. Main St. fixture for a good many years. It stood where the Washington elementary school building now stands. It was a very long structure and housed a number of small businesses. It was demolished in 1915 to make way for the new school building. The old block dated from the oil and gas boom days in Findlay.

V

FINDLAY DEPENDED upon underground fire cisterns for a water supply in event of fire. They were constructed in strategic locations about the city and from them came the water to extinguish any fires. Some of them still exist. One was found a few years ago at the corner of S. Main St. and E. Lima St. A modern waterworks system took their place when Findlay entered the "city" category.

Findlay High School played its football, baseball and other games at old Athletic Park at the foot of Beech Ave. along the Blanchard river. The area is now part of the stream's channel as a result of a river-straightening program some years ago. The school now plays its football games and holds its track meets at the beautiful Donnell Memorial Stadium adjoining the Donnell Junior high school building.

An ox roast was conducted to launch the sale of lots in the South Park addition which embraces Glendale, Greenlawn and McPherson Aves. in the early teens. It was a gala event that attracted large numbers and many lots were disposed of at auction. Prior to that the area was known as the Carlin tract and was the scene of many big circuses, among them Ringling Bros. and John Robinson's.

Findlay had two local telephone systems. They were known as the Bell and the Home, the latter being thus designated because it belonged to a company known as the Home Telephone Company. All local business houses had to have both 'phones to accommodate all their customers. In the 1920's the Bell bought out the Home and merged it with its facilities. The Home exchange was located in what is now the Masonic home on Broadway.

VI

STONE FROM FINDLAY quarries was transported to the city of Cleveland to help construct the huge and imposing high level bridge near the downtown area. Builders found that only the stone from Findlay had the particular degree of hardness they needed in the construction of this big bridge, which spans the Cuyahoga River and the low adjoining areas.

Riverside Park was known as Waterworks Park. The city's original waterworks was installed at the north end of what is now the park and the area on the south was utilized by citizens as a small picnic area. It was not until the early 1900's that the present Riverside Park came into being. The old waterworks remained in existence until the new waterworks was built on N. Blanchard St. in the 1920's.

High school commencement exercises were conducted in local theaters. This happened when the old high school auditorium became too small to accommodate the increasing numbers who were graduating. A few of the graduating programs were held in the old Marvin opera house on N. Main St. and others in the old Majestic theater, now the Harris. In those days, the graduates furnished the entire program themselves.

VII

The first stone for improvement of Main Street in Findlay came from the bed of the Blanchard river.

Baseball playing was not looked upon with favor by the town's early councils. In the 1860's they adopted an ordinance making ball playing an offense against the law. It was classified with vagrancy and similar offenses.

C. W. Post, the famous breakfast food manufacturer, was once a resident of McComb, where he started a plant to experiment in the food line. He went from there to Battle Creek, Mich., where he became fabulously successful with his Post Toasties, Postum, Grape Nuts and the like.

Mules were used to pull Findlay's first street cars. There were approximately 500 in use here. Car lines were not only on Main St., but also on other main thoroughfares.

Some of the nation's outstanding lecturers and entertainers appeared here over the years, including William Jennings Bryan, Russell Conwell, of "Acres of Diamonds" fame, Sarah Bernhardt, the great actress, George Arliss, the movie star, and others.

Chapter 21

Names

Names hold a great amount of interest. The story behind them is usually intriguing. Here is the background of the names of the communities which make up Hancock county, as well as names of townships, schools, surrounding counties and some of Findlay's streets and avenues.

TOWNS

ARCADIA — In Greece, one of the country's areas has long been named Arcadia. The district, praised for the simple life and contentment of its people, became known to both ancient and modern poets as the land of peace and quiet manners. The name "Arcadia" has come to signify such a type of life and has been given to a number of communities.

ARLINGTON — More than 30 towns in the United States bear the name of Arlington, deriving their name from the Earl of Arlington, an English statesman who was Lord Chamberlain in the time of King Charles II.

BENTON RIDGE — United States Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, was one of the country's distinguished leaders in early days. He was the father-in-law of General John C. Fremont, the Republican candidate for president in 1856. The "ridge" part of the name refers to the fact that the town is located on a ridge which runs through this area and which was one of the ancient beaches of the lake.

DEWEYVILLE — The village, which had its origin in 1881, was named for a man of the area, whose name was Dewey. He was a member of a business firm known as Palmer and Dewey.

FINDLAY — The county seat was named for Col. James Findlay, of Cincinnati, who built Fort Findlay in the war of 1812 while en route north to Detroit with Gen. Hull's forces.

FOSTORIA — The city resulted from a merger of two towns, Rome and

Risdon, with the new community named to honor Charles W. Foster, one of the founders of Rome. His son, Charles, a Fostoria merchant, became governor of Ohio in 1880 and Secretary of the Treasury under President Benjamin Harrison.

HOUCKTOWN — Jacob F. Houck, an early settler, laid out a town which was first called North Liberty, then Houcktown in Jackson township in 1853.

JENERA — Dr. A. B. Jenner was the town's first physician and post-master and a variation of his name became the village's name.

McCOMB — The town was first called Pleasantville and later became McComb, in honor of the middle name of the town's first physician, Dr. Samuel McComb Turner.

MT. BLANCHARD — The Blanchard river, which runs through the village, was named for Jacques Blanchard, a French tailor who lived among the Indians, and the town takes its name from the river. The "mount" may come from some high banks along the stream in that area. A "Blanchard" township is located in Hardin county just across the Hancock county line to the south of Mt. Blanchard and the "mount" may have been added to distinguish between the two areas.

MT. CORY — Judge D. J. Cory, of Findlay, was one of the county's early leaders and the town's name honors him. The "mount" was added, it is understood, to avoid confusion in connection with Carey in Wyandot county, as well as with a town in eastern Ohio known as Cora.

NEW STARK — Many of the pioneer settlers came from Stark county (Canton) and they named the town after the area from which they came.

NORTH FINDLAY — The town has had several names. It was originally known as both Silverwood and Stuartsville, then became Mortimer and in more recent years North Findlay. The "Silverwood" was for a family which helped lay out the town. The first post-office bore the name "Mortimer", probably for a family by that name, and the town eventually became Mortimer. The name was changed to North Findlay July 1, 1947.

RAWSON — Dr. LaQuineo Rawson was the first president of the railroad which goes through the town. He practiced medicine in Findlay and Fremont and was a brother of Dr. Bass Rawson, Findlay's first doctor.

SHAWTOWN — The town bears the name of one of the pioneer citizens of the area whose name was Enic Shaw.

VAN BUREN — The town was named for Martin Van Buren before he became President of the United States. He was Vice-President at the time and became President in 1837, four years after the town was established.

VANLUE — William Vanlue, a pioneer resident, laid out the town which was named for him.

WEST INDEPENDENCE — The name has a patriotic aspect. The "West" was included to distinguish the town's name from another Independence elsewhere in Ohio.

WILLIAMSTOWN — The town was laid out by John W. Williams, an early settler and named for him.

SURROUNDING COUNTIES

ALLEN — Named for Ethan Allen, commander of the Green Mountain boys in the Revolution who captured Fort Ticonderoga.

HARDIN — Named for General John Hardin, an officer in the Revolution, who was killed by the Indians while on a peace mission as a representative of George Washington.

HENRY — Named for Patrick Henry, American orator and patriot, whose famous remarks, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death" greatly stirred his fellow Virginians.

PUTNAM — Named for General Israel Putnam, an officer in both the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, who participated in the battle of Bunker Hill.

SENECA — Named for the Seneca Indians, who at one time were provided with a reservation within a part of eastern Hancock county.

WOOD — Named for Captain Wood, an engineer on General Wm. Henry Harrison's staff. He constructed Fort Meigs, on the Maumee river near Toledo.

WYANDOT — Named for the Wyandot Indians which tribe once inhabited this area of Ohio.

FINDLAY STREETS AND AVENUES

ALLEN — Named for General Ethan Allen, commander of the Green Mountain Boys in the Revolution.

BALDWIN — Named for Dr. William Baldwin, Findlay's second physician, who located here in 1832.

BALSLEY — Named for A. H. Balsley, once owner of the Jeffersonian, a Findlay daily published from 1880 to 1911.

BELL — Named for the Bell brothers who started a pottery at the foot of the street along the New York Central railroad.

BENTON — named for Senator Thomas Benton, of Missouri.

BIGELOW — Named for the Bigelow family which settled in the north part of Findlay on what is now known as Bigelow hill.

BLAINE — Named for James G. Blaine, of Main, Republican candidate for President, who was defeated by Grover Cleveland in 1884.

BLANCHARD — Named for the river, which was named for Jacques Blanchard, a Frenchman who lived among the Indians.

BOLTON — named for a prominent Findlay family of that name.

CAMELOT LANE — named for the legendary location of King Arthur and his court and their famous Round Table.

CARLIN — named for a prominent Findlay family of that name.

CARNAHAN — Named for T. and R. Carnahan, owners of a Findlay dry goods store in the early days of the city.

CLINTON — Named for Governor DeWitt Clinton, once governor of the state of New York.

CONCORD — Named for the Massachusetts town which figured in the beginning of the Revolutionary war.

CONNELL — named for a well known Findlay hearing bearing the name.

CORY — Named for Elnathan and D. J. Cory. The former was one of the owners of the original plat of Findlay and the latter, his son, was a prominent Findlay citizen.

CRAWFORD — Named for Col. William Crawford who was burned at the stake by the Indians between Carey and Upper Sandusky.

DEFIANCE — named for the city of Defiance, toward which the street leads.

FORAKER — Named for James B. Foraker, former governor of Ohio and once United States Senator.

FRANKLIN — Named for Benjamin Franklin, one of America's most distinguished early leaders.

FRONT — named by the early settlers as the thoroughfare directly in front of the river and Fort Findlay.

GEFFS — Named for Irvin Geffs, a Findlay newspaper man around 1920. He was attending city council when the matter of a name for a new street came up and he suggested it be named for him, which was done.

HANCOCK — Named for John Hancock, the noted American patriot whose name Hancock county bears.

HARDIN — Named for the county, which bounds Hancock county on the south.

HAWTHORNE — named for the famous New England author.

HEMPHILL BOULEVARD — Named for John Hemphill, street commissioner for many years, who long advocated construction of the boulevard along the river to replace an old walking and bicycle path.

HOWARD — Named for Captain Samuel Howard, who was an early county Treasurer and who gave the land for Findlay college.

HULL — Named for General William Hull, who was commander of the troops which marched through Hancock county in 1812 en route to Detroit. Col. James Findlay, for whom Fort Findlay was named, commanded a regiment of troops under General Hull.

HURD — Named for Dr. Anson Hurd, one of the city's pioneer physicians who was a Civil war surgeon.

JOY — Named for A. and D. Joy, owners of the famous Joy House, Findlay's popular hotel for many years.

LAQUINEO — Named for Dr. LaQuineo Rawson, physician who was one of the organizers and first president of the old Lake Erie and Western railroad (now Nickel Plate).

LEXINGTON — Named for the famous battle at the start of the Revolutionary war.

LIME — Named for the Barnd lime kilns, which stood on the site of the present Donnell memorial stadium and wading pool.

LIPPINCOTT — named for a prominent Findlay merchant of early days.

LOGAN — Named for General John Logan, Civil war army leader, who was later a United States Senator and Republican candidate in 1884 for the Vice-Presidency. He suggested the first observance of Decoration Day.

McMANNESS — named for a prominent Findlay family of that name.

McPHERSON — Named for Brig. Gen. James B. McPherson, of Clyde, Ohio, a Civil war leader of Northern forces. He was the highest ranking officer of the North killed in the war.

MARSHALL — Named for Chief Justice John Marshall, head of the United States Supreme court in the nation's early days.

MEADE — Named for General George C. Meade, commander of the Union forces at the famous battle of Gettysburg.

MEEKS — Named for the Rev. James A. Meeks, a Presbyterian minister in Findlay for many years.

MORRICAL BOULEVARD — Named for an early promoter of West Park, F. H. Morrical.

MORSE — Named for Samuel F. Morse, inventor of the famous Morse telegraphic code.

MOUND — Named in connection with the fact that evidences of mounds were early discovered in parts of Hancock county.

OLNEY — Named for Richard Olney, a member of President Cleveland's cabinet.

PAYNE — Named, it is believed, either for John Howard Payne, author of the famous song "Home, Sweet Home" or for an early resident here.

PERSHING — Named for General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I.

SCOTT AND WINFIELD — These two streets named for one man, General Winfield Scott, a hero of the Mexican war and Whig candidate for the Presidency in 1852. These streets adjoin one another in northeast Findlay.

SENECA — Named for the county bordering Hancock county on the east.

SHERIDAN — Named for General Philip Sheridan, a Civil war army leader.

SHERMAN — Named for General W. T. Sherman, who came to Findlay during the oil and gas boom and bought a tract of land which is now the Sherman addition.

SHINKLE — Named for Bradford Shinkle, who participated in development of the area in which street is located.

SWING — Named for Judge P. F. Swing, an early promoter here.

TECUMSEH — Named for the famous Indian leader.

TIOGA — Named for one of the counties of northern Pennsylvania from which some of the early oil workers came to Findlay.

TRENTON — Named for the battle of Trenton in the Revolutionary war.

WILSON — Named for James Wilson, an early settler here who developed and opened up the east side of Findlay.

WOODLEY — named for a well known early Findlay family bearing that name.

WYANDOT — Named for the county which borders Hancock county on the southeast.

Fifteen Findlay streets bear names of former presidents of the United States. One street—Wilson—has a former president's name, but was not named for him. It was given the name of Wilson long before the President's day.

The presidents for whom streets were named are: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Harrison, Hayes, Tyler, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, and Cleveland.

Many other streets are named for prominent residents of earlier days in Findlay. These include Adams, Bennett, Byal, Bell, Bolton, Carlin, Connell, Davis, Decker, Frazer, Glessner, Larkins, Lotze, Mills, McManness, Woodley and Yates.

A large number of streets bear names of animals and trees as well as first names of people, such as Mary, Anna, etc.

SCHOOLS

ADAMS — Named for the Adams family which was prominent in early Findlay.

J. C. DONNELL junior high school — Named in honor of J. C. Donnell, former president of the Ohio Oil company, who donated the land on which the school is built.

FIRMIN — Named in honor of the Firmin family, which included several early Findlay physicians.

GLENWOOD junior high school — Taken from the name of the addition in which the school is located.

HOWARD — Named for Captain Samuel Howard, one of Findlay's early leaders.

JACOBS — Named in tribute to Zola D. Jacobs, former superintendent of Findlay public schools.

JEFFERSON — Named for Thomas Jefferson, former President.

LINCOLN — Named for Abraham Lincoln, former President.

McKINLEY — Named for William McKinley, former President.

NORTHVIEW — Named because of its location in the northern part of Findlay.

WASHINGTON — Named for George Washington, first President.

WHITTIER — Named in honor of the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier.

TOWNSHIPS

ALLEN — The township, the last to be formed in Hancock county, was named to honor Gen. Ethan Allen, the commander of the "Green Mountain boys" in the Revolutionary war, who captured Fort Ticonderoga "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

AMANDA—When Fort Amanda in Auglaize county was built in 1812 by Colonel Poague, he named it for his wife, Amanda. Both Allen county and Hancock county have Amanda townships and the name is understood to have come from this source.

BIGLICK — The name comes from the famous Deer Lick which was located at the sulphur springs in the area, familiarly known as "The Big Lick". The springs still flow abundantly.

BLANCHARD — The river's name was given to the township through which the river flows, in the western part of Hancock county.

CASS — Gen. Lewis Cass, famous Michigan leader, was honored when the township was named. He was governor of the Michigan territory and became the Democratic candidate for President in 1848, losing out to Zachary Taylor, the Whig candidate.

DELAWARE — It first was named Welfare township, then later became Delaware, the new name having been taken from the Delaware tribe of Indians.

EAGLE — The country's national bird is honored in the name of this township.

JACKSON — Andrew Jackson was President of the United States when Jackson township was organized and it bears his name.

LIBERTY — The name of this township proclaims the liberty won in the war of independence.

MADISON — James Madison, fourth President of the United States, was honored when this township was named.

MARION — The township was named in honor of Gen. Francis Marion, dashing cavalry leader in the Revolutionary war. The Ohio city of Marion also bears his name.

ORANGE — A dispute arose over the naming of this township. The first settler wanted it named for him. The controversy was eventually settled with the suggestion of "Orange". It so happens that the birthplace of Dr. Bass Rawson, the county's first physician, was Orange, N. J. And some think that this entered into the picture when a name was finally selected.

PLEASANT — The nature of the area comprising this township led to this name.

PORTAGE — The name of this township was derived from the fact that the Portage river is located within its borders.

UNION — The nature of the country's governmental structure was recognized when this name was chosen for this township.

VAN BUREN — The township was named for Martin Van Buren, who was to become President six years later. He was Secretary of State in President Jackson's cabinet when the township was established.

WASHINGTON — The township's name honors George Washington, first President of the United States.

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First Nasby Letter

*Here is the full text of the first Civil war letter of David R. Locke.
(Petroleum V. Nasby)*

WINGERT'S CORNERS SECEDES

Wingert's Corners,
March the 21st, 1861

South Carliny and sevrал other uv the trooly southern states hev secesht — gone orf, I may say, onto a journey after ther rites.

Wingert's Corners, ez trooly sympathetic ez any uv em, hez follered soot.

A meetin wuz held last nite, uv wich I wuz chairman, to take the matter uv our grievances in2 consideration and it wuz finally resolved that nuthin short uv seceshn wood remedy our woes. Therefore the follerin address which I rit, wuz adoptid and ordered to be published:

TO THE WORLD

In takin a step wich may, possibly, involv the State uv which we hav bin heretofore a part into blood and convulshuns, a decent respec for the good opinion uv the world requires us to give our reasons for takin thet step.

Wingert's Corners hez too long submitted to the imperious dictates uv a tyranikle government. Our whole histry hez bin wun uv aggresin on the part uv the state and uv meek and pashent endoorunce on ours.

It refoosed to locate the state capitol at the Corners, to the great detriment uv our patriotic owners uv reel estate.

It refoosed to gravel the streets uv the Corners, or even relay the plank road.

It refoosed to locate the Penitenshury at the Corners, notwithstanding we do more towards fillin it than any other town in the state.

It refoosed to locate the State Fair at the Corners, blastin the hopes uv our patriotic groserys.

It located the canal 100 miles from the Corners.

We never hed a Guverner, notwithstanding the President uv this meetin has lived here for yeers, a waitin to be urged to accept it.

It hez compelled us, yeer after yeer, to pay our share uv the taxes.

It hez never appinted any citizen uv the place to any offis wher theft was possible, thus wilfully keepin capital away from us.

It refoosed to either pay our rale-rode subscripshun or slackwater our river.

Therefor, not bein in humor to longer endoor sich outrages, we declare ourselves Free and Independent uv the state and will maintain our position with arms, if need be.

There wuz a lively time next day. A company uv minut men wuz raised and wun uv 2-minut men. The seceshn flag, muskrat rampant, weasel

couchant, on a field d'egg shell, waves from both groserys. Our merchants feel hopeful. Cut orf from the state, direct trade with the Black Swamp follers; releest from indebtedness from Cinsinati, we will again lift our head. Our representative hez agreed to resine—when his term expires.

We are in earnest. Armed with justice and shot-guns, we bid the tyrants defiance.

P. S. — The feelin is intense — the children hev imbided it. A lad jest past, displayin the sechesn flag. It waved from behind. Disdaining concealment, the lion-hearted boy wore a rounabout. We are firm.

N. B. — We are still firm.

N. B. 2nd — We are firm, unyieldin and resoloot.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY

Interesting Facts About Findlay and Hancock County

The city of Findlay is 780.181 feet above sea level at the court house. A marker on the north side of the court house designates the elevation.

Hancock is one of four neighboring counties that join at right angles. The others are Wood, Henry and Putnam. There is only one other similar geographical situation in all of Ohio. That is in the northeastern part of the state.

Hancock county has 532 square miles of area within its borders. The 1960 population per square mile was 100.9 This was an increase from 83.2 in 1950 and from 76.7 in 1940.

Findlay's Main street is six miles in length.

Hancock county has been grouped in the "Lake Plain" states geographically by the Ohio Development commission, with six other counties—Lucas, Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky, Huron and Seneca.

On Feb. 2, 1824, — Ground Hog Day — the state legislature adopted a resolution authorizing the creation of Hancock county when the population became large enough for such a step. On Jan. 21, 1828, the legislature decreed the time had come to organize the new county.

On March 17, 1838, — St. Patrick's Day — the state legislature adopted a measure to incorporate the town of Findlay.

The front of the Hancock county court house was designed to resemble the triumphal arch built by Napoleon in Paris called Arc D'Triomphe.

There are approximately 30,000 parcels of real estate in Hancock county.

How Hancock County Has Voted For President

Below will be found the votes for president cast in Hancock county for each presidential election year since 1860. Also are included the figures for 1828 and 1836. Other pre-Civil war totals are unavailable.

- 1828—Andrew Jackson, Dem., 181; Henry Clay, Whig, 85
1836—Martin Van Buren, Dem., 701; Wm. H. Harrison, Whig, 505
1860—Stephen A. Douglas, Dem., 2301; A. Lincoln, Rep., 2135; John C. Breckenridge, 224
1864—George B. McClellan, Dem., 2300; A. Lincoln, Rep., 2178
1868—Horatio Seymour, Dem., 2528; U. S. Grant, Rep., 2279
1872—Horace Greeley, Dem., and Liberal Rep., 2449; U. S. Grant, Rep., 2311
1876—Samuel J. Tilden, Dem., 3215; Rutherford B. Hayes, Rep., 2811
1880—Winfield S. Hancock, Dem., 3350; James A. Garfield, Rep., 3214; Neal Dow, Prohibition, 9
1884—Grover Cleveland, Dem., 3497; James G. Blaine, Rep., 3245; John P. St. John, Prohibition, 84
1888—Benjamin Harrison, Rep., 4634; Grover Cleveland, Dem., 4539
1892—Grover Cleveland, Dem., 4941; Benjamin Harrison, Rep., 4780
1896—William McKinley, Rep., 5591; William J. Bryan, Dem., 5519
1900—William McKinley, Rep., 5559; William J. Bryan, Dem., 5322
1904—Theodore Roosevelt, Rep., 5768; Alton B. Parker, Dem., 4147
1908—William J. Bryan, Dem., 5141; William H. Taft, Rep., 4896
1912—Woodrow Wilson, Dem., 4309; William H. Taft, Rep., 2241; Theodore Roosevelt, Progressive, 1757
1916—Woodrow Wilson, Dem., 5349; Charles E. Hughes, Rep., 4260
1920—Warren G. Harding, Rep., 9634; James M. Cox, Dem., 6234
1924—Calvin Coolidge, Rep., 9028; John W. Davis, Dem., 5059
1928—Herbert Hoover, Rep., 13,042; Alfred Smith, Dem., 4147
1932—Franklin Roosevelt, Dem., 9374; Herbert Hoover, Rep., 9260
1936—Franklin Roosevelt, Dem., 9929; Alfred Landon, Rep., 9816
1940—Wendell Willkie, Rep., 14,175; Franklin Roosevelt, Dem., 7754
1944—Thomas Dewey, Rep., 13,351; Franklin Roosevelt, Dem., 6254
1948—Thomas Dewey, Rep., 11,419; Harry Truman, Dem., 6495
1952—Dwight D. Eisenhower, Rep., 14,882; Adlai Stevenson, Dem., 5485
1955—Dwight D. Eisenhower, Rep., 15,710; Adlai Stevenson, Dem., 5,189
1960—Richard Nixon, Rep., 17,059; John F. Kennedy, Dem., 6,712
1964—Barry Goldwater, Rep., 11,610; Lyndon B. Johnson, Dem., 11,547

How Hancock County Has Voted For Governor

Below will be found the votes cast for governor of Ohio in Hancock county from the time it was originated in 1828.

- 1828—Allen Trimble, National Rep., 44; John W. Campbell, Dem., 30
1830—Duncan McArthur, National Rep., 43; Robert Lucas, Dem., 94
1832—Robert Lucas, Dem., 260; Darius Lyman, Whig and Anti-Mason, 34
1834—Robert Lucas, Dem., 371; James Findlay, Whig, 102
1836—Eli Baldwin, Dem., 525; Joseph Vance, Whig, 376
1838—Wilson Shannon, Dem., 829; Joseph Vance, Whig, 505
1840—Wilson Shannon, Dem., 1,024; Thomas Corwin, Whig, 616; Leicester King, Abolition or Free Soil, 4
1844—David Tod, Dem., 1,214; Mordecai Bartley, Whig, 870; Leicester King, Abolition or Free Soil, 3
1846—David Tod, Dem., 1,149; William Bebb, Whig, 751; Samuel Lewis, Abolition or Free Soil, 6
1848—John B. Weller, Dem., 1,320; Seabury Ford, Whig, 868
1850—Reuben Wood, Dem., 1,299; William Johnston, Whig, 707; Edward Smith, Abolition or Free Soil, 0
(New constitution of 1851 authorized new election)
1851—Reuben Wood, Dem., 1,417; Samuel F. Vinton, Whig, 742; Samuel Lewis, Abolition or Free Soil, 7
1853—William Medill, Dem., 1,664; Nelson Barrere, Whig, 576; Samuel Lewis, Abolition or Free Soil, 55
1855—William Medill, Dem., 1,329; Salmon P. Chase, Rep., 1,238; Allen Trimble, American or Know-nothing, 30
1857—Henry B. Payne, Dem., 1,868; Salmon P. Chase, Rep., 1,611; Philip Van Trump, American or Know-nothing, 8
1859—Rufus P. Ranney, Dem., 1,796; William Dennison, Rep., 1,674
1861—Hugh J. Jewett, Dem., 1,817; David Tod, Rep., 1,772
1863—Clement L. Vallandigham, Dem., 2,277; John Brough, Rep., 2,296
1865—George W. Morgan, Dem., 2,228; Jacob D. Cox, Rep., 2,120
1867—Allen G. Thurman, Dem., 2,509; Rutherford B. Hayes, Rep., 2,172
1869—George H. Pendleton, Dem., 2,483; Rutherford B. Hayes, Rep., 1,946
1871—George W. McCook, Dem., 2,401; Edward F. Noyes, Rep., 2,218; Gideon T. Stewart, Prohibition, 0
1873—William Allen, Dem., 2,259; Edward F. Noyes, Rep., 1,794; Gideon T. Stewart, Prohibition, 39; Isaac Collins, Liberal Rep., 53
1875—William Allen, Dem., 2,833; Rutherford B. Hayes, Rep., 2,559
1877—Richard M. Bishop, Dem., 2,854; William H. West, Rep., 2,366; Henry A. Thompson, Prohibition, 39; Stephen Johnson, Greenback, 14
1879—Thomas Ewing, Dem., 3,308; Charles Foster, Rep., 2,911; Gideon T. Stewart, Prohibition, 13; A. Sanders Piatt, Greenback, 47

- 1881—John W. Bookwalter, Dem., 2,985; Charles Foster, Rep., 2,716; Abraham R. Ludlow, Prohibition, 197; John Seitz, Greenback, 29
- 1883—George Hoadly, Dem., 3,524; Joseph B. Foraker, Rep., 3,098; Ferdinand Schumacher, Prohibition, 42; Charles Jenkins, Greenback, 28
- 1885—George Hoadly, Dem., 2,283; Joseph B. Foraker, Rep., 2800; Adna B. Leonard, Prohibition, 388; John W. Northrop, Greenback Labor Reform, 24
- 1887—T. E. Powell, Dem., 2067; J. B. Foraker, Rep., 1910
- 1889—James E. Campbell, Dem., 4542; J. B. Foraker, Rep., 4468
- 1891—Wm. McKinley, Rep., 4704; James E. Campbell, Dem., 4496
- 1893—Wm. McKinley, Rep., 4782; Lawrence T. Neal, Dem., 4091
- 1895—Asa Bushnell, Rep., 4418; James E. Campbell, Dem., 3605; Jos. W. Sharp, Prohibition Party, 467
- 1897—Asa Bushnell, Rep., 4495; Horace L. Chapman, Dem., 4113
- 1899—George K. Nash, Rep., 4669; John R. McLean, Dem., 4343; Jones, 1152
- 1901—George K. Nash, Rep., 4993; James Kilbourne, Dem., 4346
- 1903—Myron T. Herrick, Rep., 4963; Tom I. Johnson, Dem., 4246
- 1905—Myron T. Herrick, Rep., 4239; John M. Pattison, Dem., 5149
(*State changed year of governorship election*)
- 1908—Andrew Harris, Rep., 5148; Judson Harmon, Dem., 5243
- 1910—Judson Harmon, Dem., 4534; Warren G. Harding, Rep., 3621
- 1912—James Cox, Dem., 4205; R. B. Brown, Rep., 2399; A. L. Garford, Progressive, 1659
- 1914—James Cox, Dem., 4328; Frank B. Willis, Rep., 4978
- 1916—Frank B. Willis, Rep., 4915; James Cox, Dem., 4238
- 1918—Frank B. Willis, Rep., 4418; James Cox, Dem., 3661
- 1920—Harry L. Davis, Rep., 8809; A. Victor Donahey, Dem., 7250
- 1922—Carmi A. Thompson, Rep., 8219; A. V. Donahey, Dem., 7276
- 1924—Harry L. Davis, Rep., 6919; A. V. Donahey, Dem., 8603
- 1926—Myers Y. Cooper, Rep., 5798; Donahey, Dem., 5351
- 1928—Myers Y. Cooper, Rep., 10,046; Martin L. Davey, Dem., 7345
- 1930—Myers Y. Cooper, Rep., 7221; George White, Dem., 7102
- 1932—David S. Ingalls, Rep., 8289; George White, Dem., 10,122
- 1934—Clarence J. Brown, Rep., 8091; Martin L. Davey, Dem., 8166
- 1936—John W. Bricker, Rep., 10,729; M. L. Davey, Dem., 9805
- 1938—John W. Bricker, Rep., 9955; Charles Sawyer, Dem., 5835
- 1940—J. W. Bricker, Rep., 13,620; M. L. Davey, Dem., 8025
- 1942—J. W. Bricker, Rep., 8460; John McSweeney, Dem., 4155
- 1944—James Garfield Stewart, Rep., 12,088; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 7,181
- 1946—Thomas J. Herbert, Rep., 8857; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 5267
- 1948—T. J. Herbert, Rep., 11,048; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 7685
- 1950—Don Ebright, Rep., 10,787; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 6804
- 1952—Charles P. Taft, Rep., 11,058; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 9318

1954—James A. Rhodes, Rep., 9432; Frank J. Lausche, Dem., 6397
 1956—C. William O'Neill, Rep., 13,601; Michael V. DiSalle, Dem., 6365
(State changed governorship term from two to four years)
 1958—C. William O'Neill, Rep., 11,039; Michael V. DiSalle, Dem., 7510
 1962—James A. Rhodes, Rep., 13,397; Michael V. DiSalle, Dem., 4762

How Findlay Has Voted For Mayor

Below will be found the votes cast for mayor of the city of Findlay, starting at 1900.

1900—Charles Watson, Rep., 1980; George Nemeyer, Dem., 1815
 1903—C. B. Metcalf, Dem., 1365; Rufus E. Taylor, Rep., 1361
 1905—James B. Walker, Dem., 1700; John F. Pogue, Rep., 1661
 1907—James B. Walker, Dem., 1956; T. F. Gillespie, Rep., 1340
 1909—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 1499; James B. Walker, Dem., 1129; M. J. Kelly, Socialist, 719
 1911—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 1287; M. J. Kelly, Soc., 1019; A. J. Fisher, Dem., 833
 1913—Wm. J. Frey, Dem., 1268; Alvin S. Thomas, Rep., 910; Otto J. Jeremias, Ind., 223; Guy Patrick, Findlay Voters League, 172; Ray B. Hugus, Soc., 389
 1915—Theodore Totten, Rep., 1741; Michael Kelly, Ind., 1038; W. P. Alspach, Dem., 821; Ray B. Hugus, Soc., 111
 1917—P. S. Shoupe, Rep., 1374; George D. Dunathan, Dem., 1287; Ray B. Hugus, Soc., 602
 1919—T. M. Mitchell, Dem., 1449; W. E. Crates, Rep., 1060; George M. Bailey, Ind., 861; Joseph Hodgson, Soc., 81
 1921—Harry R. Rodabaugh, Rep., 2268; T. M. Mitchell, Dem., 1603; George M. Bailey, Ind., 1585
 1923—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 3201; W. I. Conaway, Dem., 2211; Rex Dean, Ind., 53
 1925—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 2717; Harry L. Stevens, Dem., 2448
 1927—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 2677; George W. Montgomery, Dem., 2032
 1929—E. Lincoln Groves, Rep., 2604; T. M. Mitchell, Dem., 1520
 1931—Homer O. Dorsey, Dem., 3818; E. L. Groves, Rep., 2849
 1933—Homer O. Dorsey, Dem., 2917; E. L. Groves, Rep., 1981; Ray C. Shontlemire, Ind., 870
 1935—Homer O. Dorsey, Dem., 3701; James C. Dunn, Rep., 3269
 1937—Homer O. Dorsey, Dem., 3387; Chester P. Smith, Rep., 2964
 1939—Cloyce H. Duttweiler, Rep., 4066; Homer O. Dorsey, Dem., 3750
 1941—Cloyce H. Duttweiler, Rep., 2806; Sherman E. Frost, Dem., 2435
 1943—Cloyce H. Duttweiler, Rep., 2853; John T. Tinder, Dem., 2052
 1945—Clarence H. Gassman, Dem., 3078; Cloyce H. Duttweiler, Rep., 2352

1947—Clifford E. Glathart, Rep., 3935; Clarence H. Gassman, Dem., 3407
1949—Clifford C. Glathart, Rep., 4640; Bert Klentsche, Dem., 2328
1951—Chester P. Smith, Rep., 2520; Perry Miles, Ind., 2459; James Bernhardt, Ind., 1373
1953—Chester P. Smith, Rep., 2399; John Sausser, Dem., 2169; Harold Yates, Ind., 903
1955—William J. Carlin, Rep., 4902; Perry Miles, Dem., 2920
1957—William J. Carlin, Rep., 2802. Unopposed.
1959—William J. Carlin, Rep., 4821; James Stall, Dem., 3228
1961—William J. Carlin, Rep., 4891; H. F. McGovern, Dem., 4435
1963—John C. Sausser, Dem., 5841; William J. Carlin, Rep., 3555



Election Facts Of Interest

Two elections are conducted annually. One is the primary on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. The other is the regular election, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In presidential years, these county officials are elected: two county commissioners, clerk of courts, county treasurer, county recorder, prosecuting attorney, engineer, sheriff and coroner.

In the years in between presidential elections, these county officials are elected: county auditor and one county commissioner.

A representative to the General Assembly is elected every two years. Common pleas and probate judges are elected for six-year terms. Members of Congress are chosen every two years, while state senators have four-year terms. Court of appeals' judges have terms of six years.

Findlay elects its municipal officials every two years in the odd numbered years, except city auditor who has a four-year term. Starting in 1967, mayors will be elected every four years. Villages and townships elect their public officials every two years, also in odd-numbered years.

Members of boards of education serve for terms of four years. Some members are elected every two years, terms overlapping.

Candidates are required to file their declarations of candidacy at least 90 days before the voting time.

In order to be eligible to vote for president, one must reside in the state of Ohio at least 90 days before election day.

A year's residence is required to be eligible to vote for all other offices.

The deadline for registration falls 41 days before a primary or election.

Findlay's Economic Picture Over the Years

Here's a capsule account of Findlay's economy by periods:

1812 TO 1885

Findlay, during this initial period, experienced the usual growth of the small town in Ohio, with agriculture dominating the scene and with no manufacturing of any size. The population over this period increased slowly but steadily until by the mid 1880's it was just under 5,000.

1885 — 1895

This was the period of the gas and oil boom, which developed after their discovery here. It was a period of frenzied growth, population explosion and industrial expansion. Findlay became the center of global interest because of its great oil and gas riches. But the gas played out before long. The finding of oil enabled the community to hold much of its gain.

1895 — 1922

The subsiding of the boom in the late 1890's and the 1900's took Findlay's population down below 15,000 by 1910. In the early 1910's, however, conditions began to improve and were beginning to look favorable when World War I involved the United States. This halted progress for a while. A post-war depression for a few years then interfered with the economy's stride.

1922 — 1930

This was a period of substantial headway in the community. Industry was in good shape, employment was mounting, population was gaining, civic problems were being met and solved and the community in general was on a sound basis, it appeared. The growth of this period was on the most encouraging scale experienced up to this time, but it proved short-lived.

1930 — 1945

The coming of the great depression clouded the 1930's here and elsewhere. The economy slowed down and it became a period of marking time that was to continue until late in the 1930's when conditions began to improve. Then came World War II to add another disturbing factor. Progress towards an improved economy had to be deferred. Evidence of a solid foundation for eventual development and expansion was to be seen, however, when conditions permitted.

1945 —

With the end of World War II, Findlay prepared to move forward. The time was ripe for substantial growth. All the factors of the economy appeared favorable for progress on a substantial scale. This has proven to be the case, with the result that the community is now in the midst of its longest continuous era of economic and civic progress. Nothing has interrupted this surge ahead and prospects for its continuance are most encouraging.

Superintendents of Findlay and Hancock County

The Findlay Union school district was organized in 1853. Superintendents from then until the present time are as follows:

Between 1853 and 1877

William K. Leonard, William Spears, Ephriam Miller, William Wood and C. A. Palmer. Mr. Miller served for 11 years starting in 1859. Years of others unknown.

John W. Zeller, 1877-1909

F. L. Kinley, 1936-1952

John F. Smith, 1909-1917

Miss Zola D. Jacobs, 1952-1957

I. F. Matteson, 1917-1936

Dr. Robert A. VanAuken, 1957-65

C. Robert Baker, 1965-

Findlay schools were first graded in 1870 and principals of the high school who have served since that time are as follows:

Fannie Stevens, John Poe, Jennie Earhart, Bertha Farr, Kate Detterly, U. H. Squire, Hiram Van Campen, Ida Beagle, Eva Hurd (Mrs. C. B. Metcalf), Solon Powell, John F. Smith, Rufus W. Reckard, Dr. D. S. Finton, F. L. Kinley, George R. Constien, Albert L. Mattoon, C. Robert Baker and Howard Grove.

HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

A. J. Nowlan, 1914-1923

E. E. Ray, 1930-1948

J. W. Insley, 1923-1930

E. J. Joseph, 1948—

Main Street Bridges Over River In Findlay

The record of the Main street bridges over the Blanchard river in Findlay follows:

1. The issue of a bridge over river in Findlay and three miles east of Findlay on Findlay-Carey road was presented to people and approved in 1843. A wooden trestle bridge was built in 1843 for \$800.00.

2. A new two-span wooden bridge was built in 1850, for \$1,500.00.

3. An iron bridge was built in 1873 at a cost of \$13,000.00.

4. In 1889 a new bridge with a large superstructure of iron was built. Provision was made for use of the bridge by street cars.

5. The present bridge was constructed in 1935 as a memorial to those from the community who had served their country in all wars.

First Graduates of Findlay High School

The members of the first eight graduating classes of Findlay school were as follows:

1873

Inez Maurice, nee Church
William P. Gray
Mary Gordon
Chas. W. Patterson

Phoebe J. Paxton
Emma M. Gordon, nee Gray
Emma Carabin, nee Graber
Ida M. Ricketts

* * *

1874

J. Charles Tritch

Will J. Frey

* * *

1875

Anetta Jones
Madora Shepherd, nee Twining
Fannie Bitler, nee Hurd

Florence Barr
L. Sterling Newell

* * *

1876

Clayton W. Ford
James P. Kimber

Annie E. Gordon

* * *

1877

Bertha Stuckenberg, nee Powell
F. May Bigelow, nee Vance

Sarah H. Higgins, nee Vance
Hattie A. Siddall, nee Ballard

* * *

1878

Flora B. Van Campen, nee Kimmel
Emma J. Ballard
Virginia A. Housel, nee Kimmons
Elizabeth Zeller, nee Patterson

George H. Gordon
Mary Burns
Rudolph Hahn

* * *

1879

Henry C. Smith
Mamie A. Beardsley, nee Blackford
Inez M. Wagner, nee Graber

Mary F. Burns
Carrie B. Howard, nee Vance
Fred W. Karg

* * *

1880

Alice Bish, nee Anderson
Sallie T. Brown

Minor Beardsley
Fannie M. Hagar, nee Redick

Postmasters Who Have Served City of Findlay

Following is the list of Findlay postmasters who have served since the local office with the year in which they began their duties:

Wilson Vance, 1823
John C. Wickham, 1829
Squire Carlin, 1831
Parlee Carlin, 1849 (March)
Robert Coulter, (June)
William Taylor (December)
Abel F. Taylor, 1853
Oliver Mungen, 1856
James Robinson, 1857
Joseph B. Rothchild, 1861
Cloys B. Wilson, 1866
James M. Neibling, 1867
Amariah Ballou, 1869
Thomas E. Adams, 1872

Eli G. DeWolfe, 1876
W. Scott Hammaker, 1885
Sam C. Moore, 1889
John M. Barr, 1894
Dr. J. H. Boger, 1899
Theodore Totten, 1906
George D. Dunathan, 1914
H. Wilts Brown, 1918
Charles A. Saunders, 1922
Walter T. Ault, 1934
Richard R. Groves, 1948
Clarence H. Gassman, 1949
G. Fred Graf, 1951-

Local Histories of Findlay and Hancock County

There have been a number of histories of Hancock county and the city of Findlay written and published over the years. A list of them follows:

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Hancock county, H. H. Hardesty, 1875.

"History of Hancock county," by D. B. Beardsley, a Findlay attorney, published in 1881.

"History of Hancock county," by R. C. Brown, of Chicago, Ill., in 1886.

"History of Hancock county," by Jacob A. Spaythe, a Hancock county deputy county auditor, published in 1903.

Centennial Biography of Hancock county, published by Lewis Publishing company, New York and Chicago, 1903.

"20th Century History of Findlay and Hancock county," by Dr. Jacob A. Kimmell, Findlay physician, published in 1910.

"Hancock county in the World War" by Irvin Geffs. (World War I) (1920)

"A History of Findlay's Public Schools," by Helen Guide Townend. (1925)

"A Brief History of Gas and Oil in Findlay," by William D. Humphrey. (1940)

"Findlay, the Story of a Community," by William D. Humphrey, of Findlay, member of faculty of Ohio Northern University, 1961.

"A History of Frontier Findlay," by Mabel E. Vance. (1962)

Census Figures for Findlay and Hancock County

	Findlay	County		Findlay	County
1830	52	813	1900	17,613	41,993
1840	560	9,986	1910	14,858	37,860
1850	1,256	16,751	1920	17,021	38,394
1860	2,467	22,886	1930	19,363	40,404
1870	3,315	23,847	1940	20,228	40,793
1880	4,633	27,784	1950	23,845	44,280
1890	18,553	42,563	1960	30,344	53,686

1960 Township Census Figures

Allen	1,176	Madison	1,642
Amanda	942	Marion	1,853
Biglick	935	Orange	1,008
Blanchard	977	Pleasant	2,004
Cass	637	Portage	517
Delaware	1,097	Union	1,494
Eagle	952	Van Buren	905
Jackson	807	Washington	4,615
Liberty	1,781		

These totals include populations of villages within the various townships. Washington township includes both Arcadia and that part of Fostoria which is in Hancock County.

1960 Village Census Figures

Arcadia	610	Mt. Blanchard	432
Arlington	955	Mt. Cory	301
Benton Ridge	325	Rawson	407
Jenera	272	Van Buren	374
McComb	1,176	Vanlue	386

Hancock County Public Officials

(The years given after the names of public officials are the times of the start and termination of their terms in office.)

REPRESENTATIVES

S. M. Lockwood, 1828-30	Alexander Phillips, 1876-
Josiah Hedges, 1830-31	(died after nine months in office)
Harvey J. Harmon, 1831-32	Henry Sheets, 1877-81
James L. Everett, 1832-34	William H. Wheeler, 1881-85
James Hubbard, 1834-36	Absalom P. Byal, 1885-89
W. B. Craighill, 1836-37	Henry Brown, 1889-93
Parlee Carlin, 1837-38	George A. Carney, 1893-95
William Taylor, 1838-39	Charles Bright, 1895-97
Moses McAnelly, 1839-41	Dr. Jacob A. Kimmell, 1897-99
G. W. Baird, 1841-42	Oliver P. Shaw, 1899-1901
Henry C. Brish and	Ralph D. Cole, 1901-05
George Baird, 1842-43	Dr. M. M. Carrothers, 1905-07
William C. Craighill and	Marion G. Foster, 1907-09
Samuel Wagoner, 1843-44	D. P. Hagerty, 1909-11
Elijah Huntington, 1844-45	(Re-elected and died during
Lyman Parker, 1845-46	second term)
John McMahan, 1846-47	Andrew Boyer, 1913-15
Emery C. Potter, 1847-48	Frank Beitler, 1915-17
Machias C. Whiteley, 1848-50	Christian H. Hilty, 1917-19
Henry Bishop, 1850-52	Frank S. Robinson, 1919-21
John F. Perkey, 1854-56	(Re-elected and died during
Parlee Carlin, 1856-58	second term)
John Wescott, 1858-62	Ray Ascham, 1923-25
William Gribben, 1862-63	George M. Forney, 1925-33.
Parlee Carlin, 1863-66	Rev. James M. Guyer, 1933-35
(seated as result of contest)	(Re-elected and died during
Isaac Cusac, 1866-70	second term)
Aaron B. Shafer, 1870-72	Jackson E. Betts, 1937-47
Dr. Charles Oesterlen, 1872-74	Mark Bennett 1947-1955
William M. McKinley, 1874-76	Ralph D. Cole, Jr., 1955-

(In cases of a representative's death, there is no provision for appointment or election of successor, so the office was vacant for a time when Hancock county representatives died, in office)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Godfrey Wolford, 1828-28	Charles McKinnis, 1828-33
(April to October)	Mordecai Hammond, 1829-32
John Long, 1828-29	Robert L. Strother, 1831-34
John P. Hambleton, 1828-31	John Rose, 1832-35

John Byal, 1833-39
 John L. Carson, 1834-35
 William Taylor, 1835-38
 Darius Smith, 1835-37
 Aquilla Gilbert, 1837-43
 Daniel Fairchild, 1838-41
 George Shaw, 1839-45
 Andrew Ricketts, 1841-44
 Peter George, 1843-49
 John Lafferty, 1844-47
 William Taylor, 1845-48
 William W. Hughes, 1847-53
 Thomas Kelly, 1848-54
 Elias Cole, 1849-55
 Jacob Bushong, 1853-59
 William Davis, 1854-57
 John McKinley, 1855-61
 John Graham, 1857-63
 Isaac Cusac, 1859-61
 Conrad Line, 1861-64
 Jacob Bushong, 1862-62
 (Nine months)
 John Cooper, 1862-68
 William Taylor, 1863-69
 David W. Engle, 1864-71
 William M. Mitchell, 1868-74
 Samuel Creighton, 1869-72
 Joseph Saltzman, 1871-76
 John D. Bishop, 1872-78
 John Edgington, 1874-80
 Ross W. Moore, 1876-82
 Lewis Luneack 1878-81
 Bateman B. Powell, 1880-83
 Andrew S. Beck, 1881-87
 Charles S. Kelly, 1882-89
 John M. Moorhead, 1883-86
 Isaac M. Watkins, 1886-93
 George W. Krout, 1887-91
 Calvin W. Brooks, 1889-92
 Jacob Pepple, 1891-97
 Christian Garber, 1892-95
 Henry B. Rader, 1893-96
 Benjamin F. Wineland, 1895-1901

John D. Anderson, 1896-1902
 Jacob R. Tussing, 1897-1900
 Israel W. George, 1900-06
 Isaac Hart, 1901-07
 Abraham J. Overholt, 1902-09
 Jesse W. Montgomery, 1906-11
 John Greer, 1907-09, 1911-13
 Jefferson Roller, 1909-13
 Lewis Brickman, 1909-13
 Harley M. Beck, 1913-17
 John Orwick, 1913-17
 John Finsel, 1913-15, 1917-19
 Ellis Crawford, 1915-17
 Sanderson Pifer, 1917-19
 George W. Montgomery, 1917-19
 Walter Brown, 1919-23
 Turner Mackey, 1919-25
 George V. Poe, 1919-25
 Chas. B. Fahl, 1923-35
 Chas. Collingwood, 1925-33
 W. B. Kring, 1925-33
 G. C. Cornwell, 1933-40
 (died during second term)
 Mrs. Alta Cornwell, 1940-40
 (seven months)
 George L. Wiseley, 1933-41
 Carl C. Smith, 1935-39
 Lloyd Bennett, 1939-47
 John Reed, 1941-49
 Lewis Brinkman, 1941-49
 Verne Powell, 1947-55
 Parley Lawrence, 1949-64
 (died in fourth term)
 Porter L. Schuck, 1949-57, 1959-61
 Clyde Warren, 1955-
 Ralph W. Cole, 1957-59
 (died during first term)
 Wayne Trautman, 1961-65
 Howard Poe, 1964-64
 (three months)
 Harold Metzker, 1965-
 Floyd A. Stoner, 1965-

There have always been three members of the board of county commissioners. Their election has been on a different basis from time to time. Now two members are elected in presidential years and one member in non-presidential years. At one time, all three were elected at one time. At other times, a different system has prevailed.

COUNTY AUDITORS

Matthew Reigley, 1828-29	John L. Hill, 1869-73
William Hackney, 1829-31	George S. Mosher, 1873-77
Thomas F. Johnson, 1831-32	Joseph R. Kagy, 1877-83
Joseph C. Shannon, 1832-36	William T. Platt, 1883-90
Edson Goit, 1836-37	Clarendon Metcalf, 1890-96
Charles W. O'Neal, 1837-39	Surrel P. DeWolf, 1896-1902
William L. Henderson, 1839-42	John A. Sutton, 1902-09
James H. Barr, 1842-45	Frank C. Shank, 1909-13
James S. Ballentine, 1845-47	J. Newton Traxler, 1913-17
William Mungen, 1847-51	J. Robert Hanrahan, 1917-23
Elijah Barnd, 1851-55	G. Ray Morehart, 1923-35
Henry Brown, 1855-57	Frank H. Huffman, 1935-43
Aaron Howard, 1857-61	Charles Simpson, 1943-47
Henry Sheets, 1861-65	Lawrence E. Lape, 1947-55
Solomon Shafer, 1865-69	Carroll R. Shanks, 1959-

SHERIFFS

Don Alonzo Hamlin, 1828-29	Parlee C. Tritch, 1877-81
John C. Wickham, 1829-31	Charles B. Hall, 1881-85
Joseph Johnson, 1831-34	Lemuel McManness, 1885-87
Christian Barnd, 1834-38	George L. Cusac, 1887-91
Jacob Rosenberg, 1838-42	Joseph T. Bartoon, 1891-95
Elisha Brown, 1842-44	John Wren, 1895-97
Alonzo D. Wing, 1844-46	Ervin E. Ewing, 1897-1901
Absalom P. Bial, 1846-48	Ira Bushong, 1901-05
Hiram Williams, 1848-48	E. Lincoln Groves, 1905-09
(three months)	J. S. Johns, 1909-13
Thomas Buckley, 1848-52	R. V. Kennedy, 1913-17
James Robinson, 1852-54	Ed Huff, 1917-21
William W. Yates, 1854-55	Frank Hoy, 1921-25
Daniel D. McCahan, 1855-56;	Kenneth B. Clark, 1925-29
1865-67	Orville Wilford, 1929-33
James M. Neibling, 1856-61	Lyle Harvitt, 1933-45
Cloys B. Wilson, 1861-65	Orla Cooper, 1945-53
Abraham Yerger, 1867-69	Carson Davis, 1953-65
Samuel Myers, 1869-73; 1875-77	William R. Bell, 1965-
James L. Henry, 1873-75	

COUNTY TREASURERS

Joshua Hedges, 1828-29
Edwin S. Jones, 1829-31
Squire Carlin, 1831-39
Edson Goit, 1839-43
Levi Taylor, 1843-45; 1849-51
Wilson Vance, 1845-47
Mahlon Morris, 1847-49
Samuel Howard, 1851-55; 1879-83
Benjamin Huber, 1855-57;
1861-63; 1871-75
William Vanlue, 1857-61
Samuel Spitler, 1863-67
Henry B. Wall, 1867-70
Henry Sheets, 1870-71
Peter Hosler, 1875-79
William J. Creighton, 1883-87
Andrew Moore, 1887-89

Oliver P. Shaw, 1889-93
David Hosler, 1893-95
John Parker, 1895-99
Andrew Bish, 1899-1901
William S. Bish, 1901-05
Isaac W. Whetstone, 1905-09
William J. Frey, 1909-13
Harry O. Fellers, 1913-17
Charles M. Beard, 1917-21
Guy C. Davis, 1921-25
A. O. Hamilton, 1925-29
Berlin L. Sausser, 1929-33
Tell Thompson, 1933-41
Boyd D. Hutson, 1941-45
Frank S. Wasson, 1945-65
George B. Stout, 1965-

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Anthony Casad, 1828-32
Edson Goit, 1832-36; 1837-38;
1858-62
Arnold F. Merriman, 1836-37
Jacob Barnd, 1838-38 (seven days)
Jude Hall, 1838-42
Abel F. Parker, 1842-44; 1846-49
William M. Patterson, 1844-46
John E. Rosette, 1849-54
William Gribbin, 1854-58
James A. Bope, 1862-62
(ten months); 1887-91
Henry Brown, 1862-68;
1876-1880; 1885-87
William H. Anderson, 1868-72
George F. Pendleton, 1872-76
Aaron B. Shafer, 1880-85

Harlan F. Burket, 1891-94;
1921-25
Theodore Totten, 1894-97
Charles E. Jordan, 1897-1903
William L. David, 1903-09
Charles A. Blackford, 1909-13
Merle N. Poe, 1913-15
John E. Betts, 1915-17
Chester Pendleton, 1917-21
John E. Priddy, 1925-29
Marcus C. Downing, 1929-33
Jackson E. Betts, 1933-37
Robert E. Fuller, 1937-41
Joe M. Moorhead, 1941-49
Robert D. Schuck, 1949-57
Garver Oxley, 1957-65
Richard J. Rinebolt, 1965-

COUNTY ENGINEERS

William Taylor, 1828-32
William L. Henderson, 1832-38
Joel Pendleton, 1838-54; 1857-76
George W. Powell, 1854-57

Edwin Phifer, 1876-85
U. K. Stringfellow, 1885-91
John W. S. Riegle, 1891-96
Elmer C. Bolton, 1896-97; 1900-06

Edwin Phifer, 1879-1900
Harry Glathart, 1906-09
Elmer Hilty, 1909-13
Alexander Taylor, 1913-19
Philip Ballard, 1919-23
Ancil L. Marvin, 1923-27

A. P. MacGregor, 1927-33
Max Stringfellow, 1933-45
John M. Stough, 1945-54
Max Moorhead, 1954-55
Charles Morlock, 1955-60
Norris E. Stultz, 1960-

CLERKS OF COURT

Wilson Vance, 1828-35
William H. Baldwin, 1835-42
William L. Henderson, 1842-48
Absalom P. Byal, 1848-55
William W. Siddall, 1855-64
James Denison, 1864-70
Peter Pifer, 1870-76
Scott Q. Preble, 1876-79
Henry H. Louthan, 1879-85
Presley E. Hay, 1885-91
Louis P. Julien, 1891-97

Philip W. Ewing, 1897-1906
W. Perry Alspach, 1906-13
Oliver P. Hartman, 1913-17
Guy Burson, 1917-19
J. Clark Edie, 1919-25
Edna Bright, 1925-29
Myron Sorenson, 1929-35
Gerald Hartman, 1935-41
Truman Woodworth, 1941-45
Walter D. Feller, 1945-47
Charles E. Oman, 1947-

COUNTY RECORDERS

Wilson Vance, 1828-38;
(except for five months in 1835)
Parlee Carlin, 1835-35
(five months)
Jacob Barnd, 1838-44
John Adams, 1844-47
Paul Sours, 1847-53
Isaac J. Baldwin, 1853-60
Adam Steinman, 1860-66
Luther B. Robinson, 1866-72
Paul Kemerer, 1872-78
Joseph F. Gutzwiler, 1878-84
John B. Foltz, 1884-90

John Baker, 1890-93
John C. Mitchell, 1893-96
Alvin S. Thomas, 1896-1902
William F. Bloom, 1902-09
Alvin C. Ewing, 1909-15
Albert B. Crozier, 1915-17;
1921-27
Otho Van Swerengen, 1917-21
Clifford O. Patterson, 1927-35
Russell Barnhill, 1935-44
E. L. Mergenthaler, 1944-49
Waldo C. Folk, 1949-

COUNTY CORONERS

Thomas Slight, 1828-31
Joseph Dewitt, 1831-33
Thomas Slight, 1833-35
Peter Byal, 1835-37
Henry Lamb, 1837-40
Noah Wilson, 1840-40
(only served seven months)

Joshua Hedges, 1840-42
Allen McCahan, 1842-44
Norman Chamberlain, 1844-45
Alonzo D. Wing, 1845-46
Hiram Williams, 1846-50
Harmon Warrell, 1850-52
Garret D. Teatsorth, 1852-54

Daniel D. McCahan, 1854-56
 Edwin Parker, 1856-61
 Parlee C. Tritch, 1861-65
 Abraham Yerger, 1865-69
 Parlee C. Tritch, 1869-73
 Frank J. Karst, 1873-75
 Daniel F. Cline, 1875-77
 Dr. Tobias G. Barnhill, 1877-81
 Dr. J. C. Tritch, 1881-85
 Dr. Tobias G. Barnhill, 1885-89
 Dr. Jesse A. Howell, 1889-93
 Dr. Jacob E. Powell, 1893-95

Dr. T. S. Wilson, 1895-99
 Dr. Ralph E. Brake, 1899-1903
 Dr. Alfred W. Balsley, 1903-07
 Dr. Don B. Biggs, 1907-09
 Dr. Calvin Todd, 1909-13
 Dr. William N. Yost, 1913-17
 Dr. J. M. Ruckman, 1917-19
 Dr. Reuben D. Whisler, 1919-25
 Dr. D. J. King, 1925-29
 Dr. H. O. Crosby, 1929-45
 Dr. Byron F. Voorhees, 1945-

Prior to 1876, the state law did not require that coroners belong to the medical profession. Since then, this requirement has prevailed.

PROBATE JUDGES

James H. Barr, 1852-55
 Nathaniel E. Childs, 1855-58
 James H. Barr, 1858-61
 Alfred W. Frederick, 1861-67
 Gamaliel C. Barnd, 1867-73
 Samuel B. Huffman, 1873-79
 S. J. Siddall, 1879-85
 G. W. Myers, 1885-91
 Arthur E. Kerns, 1891-97

John D. Snyder, 1897-1903
 Gideon G. Banker, 1903-09
 Homer O. Dorsey, 1909-21
 Jesse C. Bitler, 1921-27
 Theodore Bayless, 1927-29
 Paul R. Capell, 1929-49
 Joe M. Moorhead, 1949-53
 Paul Beach, 1953-61
 Margaretta Schuck, 1961-

Prior to 1852, the probate court was non-existent in Ohio. The constitutional convention of that year established the probate court as an integral part of the Ohio judicial system. Before 1852, common pleas courts handled matters now under probate court jurisdiction.

Until the 1930's, the state law did not require that probate judges be attorneys. Since then, the law has required that such be the case.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Members of Congress who have represented the district in which Hancock county has been located since the Civil war are as follows:

Francis C. LeBlond, Mercer county, 1863-67
 William Mungen, Hancock county, 1867-71
 Charles H. Lamison, Allen county, 1871-73

Frank H. Hurd, Lucas county, 1879-81.
John B. Rice, Sandusky county, 1881-83
George E. Seney, Seneca county, 1883-91
Darius D. Hare, Wyandot county, 1891-93
Luther M. Strong, Hardin county, 1893-97
Archibald Lybrand, Delaware county, 1897-1901
William R. Warnock, Champaign county, 1901-05
Ralph D. Cole, Hancock county, 1905-11
Frank B. Willis, Hardin county, 1911-15
John A. Key, Marion county, 1915-19
R. Clinton Cole, Hancock county, 1919-25
Brooks Fletcher, Marion county, 1925-29; 1933-39
Grant E. Mouser, Jr., Marion county, 1929-33
Dr. Frederick C. Smith, Marion county, 1939-51
Jackson E. Betts, Hancock county, 1951-

Hancock county was in the 5th congressional district of Ohio at the time of the Civil war. In 1873, it was transferred to the 10th district and in 1879 to the 7th district. The county returned to the 10th district in 1881 and back again to the 5th district in 1883. Two years later, in 1885, it was moved again to the 7th district. In 1891, it was transferred to the 8th district and has remained in this district ever since, although the counties within the district have changed.

COMMON PLEAS JUDGES

Until 1912, there were judicial districts in Ohio and Hancock county and several surrounding counties comprised such a district. Three Findlay attorneys were elected judges during this time. They were:

Machias C. Whiteley, who served from 1857 to 1862

George F. Pendleton, who served from 1883 to 1890

William F. Duncan, who was appointed to the bench by Governor George K. Nash in September, 1902, to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected at the polls.

The new state constitution adopted in 1912 gave each county at least one common pleas judge, abolishing judicial districts for such judges. Hancock county judges since then have been:

William F. Duncan, who continued to serve as Hancock county's common pleas judge until his retirement at the end of 1934, his service having been continuous from 1902.

Charles E. Jordan, 1935-36. (Died while in office)

Chester Pendleton, 1936-53. (Appointed by Governor Martin L. Davey and subsequently elected at polls.)

Joe M. Moorhead, 1953-

COURT OF APPEALS

Hancock county is one of the 16 counties in the third district court of appeals. Findlay attorneys who have served on this bench include these men:

Silas E. Hurin, who was elected in 1904.

Walter H. Kinder, who was elected in 1908.

Chester Pendleton, who was elected to fill an unexpired term in 1930.

STATE SENATE

Hancock county has sent a number of its citizens to the state senate at Columbus. State senators are elected from districts, whose boundaries have changed from time to time. Those who have gone to the senate from Hancock county are with year of their election.

Moses McAnelly, 1842-44

Charles W. O'Neil, 1844-46

William Mungen, 1852-54

H. P. Gage, 1872-74

David Joy 1878-80

William L. Carlin, 1888-90

Thomas H. McConica, 1892-96

H. Walter Doty, 1898-1900

Delbert Latta, 1952-58

Tennyson Guyer, 1958-60; 1962-

DELEGATES TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

Since Hancock county was organized in 1828, there have been three state constitutional conventions held within the state to revise the state's constitution. By popular vote, Hancock county sent these men to the conventions:

John Ewing, second convention, 1850

A. P. Byal, third convention, 1872

Andrew Beyer, fourth convention, 1912.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

A number of Findlay and Hancock county men have served as presidential electors over the years. Such electors represent congressional districts and are chosen at the November elections in the years in which presidents are chosen. Presidential electors from here have included:

John Dukes, 1840. (William Henry Harrison, president)

William Taylor, 1856. (John Charles Fremont, Whig candidate for president was defeated, but he carried Ohio and Mr. Taylor thus voted for him in electoral college.)

Jacob F. Burket, 1880. (James A. Garfield, president)

Robert Evans, 1956. (Dwight D. Eisenhower, president).

In 1944, Dr. Carl Watson, of Findlay, was a Democratic candidate for elector, but since the party lost Ohio in the election, he did not participate in the electoral college.

Summary of Taxes Levied for Local, State Government

The various taxes which now support government, locally and state-wide are as follows:

REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

Such property is taxed at a value which is determined by the taxing authorities. In the 1962 reappraisal in Hancock county, the tax value on real estate was placed at approximately 38 per cent of the county auditor's appraised value. A rate of taxation is then set after examination of financial budgets submitted by the governing authorities of the various taxing districts. All proceeds of this tax go to support county, city and township governmental operations, as well as schools. The state only shares in this tax when the state legislature levies a special temporary tax, after a vote of the people authorizing it for such purposes as paying a war bonus to soldiers.

The general code of the state of Ohio provides for the preparation of the general tax list of real and public utility property in Ohio as follows:

"On or before the first Monday of August, annually, the county auditor shall compile and make up, in tabular form and alphabetical order, separate lists of the names of the several persons, companies, firms, partnerships, associations, and corporations in whose names real property has been listed in each township, municipal corporation, special district, or separate school district, or part of either in his county, placing separately, in appropriate columns, opposite each name, the description of each tract, lot, or parcel of real estate, the value of each tract, lot, or parcel, the value of the improvements, thereon, and of the names of the several public utilities whose property subject to taxation on the general tax list and duplicate, has been apportioned by the department of taxation to the county, and the amount so apportioned to each township, municipal corporation, special district, or separate school district or part of either in his county, as shown by the certificate of apportionment of public utility property.

"If the name of the owner of any tract, lot, or parcel of real estate is unknown to the auditor, "unknown" shall be entered in the column of names opposite said tract, lot or parcel. Such lists shall be prepared in duplicate. On or before the first Monday of September in each year, the auditor shall correct such lists in accordance with the additions and deductions ordered by the department of taxation, and by the county board of revision, and shall certify and on the first day of October deliver one copy thereof to the county treasurer.

"The copies prepared by the auditor shall constitute the auditor's general tax list and treasurer's general duplicate of real and public utility property for the current year. In making up such tax lists the auditor may place each town lot in its numerical order, and each separate parcel of land in each township according to the numerical order of the section."

TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

This type of property includes all personal property located or used in business in Ohio. It goes on the tax duplicate at a varying rate, between 70 and 50 per cent of its true value, except equipment used in generating and distributing electricity to others, which is assessed at 100 per cent of true value. The 50 per cent category includes farm animals and equipment and manufacturing inventories and equipment and some other types of personal property. Merchants' inventories have been taxed on a 70 per cent basis for many years, but the state legislature a few years ago authorized a gradual reduction in this rate down to 50 per cent over a period of years. Remaining property in this area is still taxed at 70 per cent of its true value. The tax rate is the same as that for real estate and public utilities. The distribution of revenue is the same, also.

* * *

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

This property includes all moneys, credits and investments. The rate of taxation and measure of the tax follows:

Productive investments, 5% of income yield.

Unproductive investments, 2 mills on the dollar of true value.

Deposits, 2 mills on the dollar of actual value.

Shares of stock and capital employes by dealers in intangibles and by financial institutions, 5 mills on the dollar at book value.

Money, credit and other intangibles, 3 mills on the dollar, actual amount or true value in money.

The receipts from this tax remain in the county of origin for use by designated subdivisions. Allocation is discretionary with county budget commission within limitations fixed by law. Libraries have first claim on the fund allocations.

* * *

INHERITANCE TAX

The basis of this tax is succession by an individual to property passing, in trust or otherwise, by will, by intestate laws, by gift etc., in contemplation of death, or intended to take possession at or after death. The law sets up a sliding schedule of rates, depending upon the relationship of those inheriting the property. Fifty per cent of all revenue derived from this tax goes to the municipality or township of origin. The other half goes to the state's general revenue fund.

* * *

PUBLIC UTILITIES EXCISE TAX

A tax is levied on the privilege of carrying on intra-state business in Ohio in the public utilities field. The tax is levied on gross receipts, with a varying schedule, depending upon the type of business. For the most part, the tax amounts to 3%. The state treasurer collects the tax. Of the total

tax, 1.65% is distributed to counties for poor relief. The state keeps the remainder for its general revenue fund.

* * *

GRAIN HANDLING TAX

A grain handling tax is levied against grain dealers as follows:

Wheat and flax, one half mill per bushel.

All other grain: one fourth mill per bushel.

The tax is not applicable to farmers as to grain they raise and store. The revenue is distributed to counties.

* * *

CIGARETTE DEALER'S LICENSE TAX

A tax is imposed for the privilege of engaging in wholesale or retail business of selling cigarettes. The rate of the tax is \$100 yearly for each wholesale place of business; \$25 for each retail place. One fourth of the revenue goes to the county's general fund and the remaining 75% to the municipality or township or origin.

* * *

CIGARETTE TAX

A tax is levied on each 10 cigarettes sold at retail. The rate amounts to two and a half cents on each 10 cigarettes sold. (There are 20 cigarettes in a pack). Counties retain 1% of the proceeds for the county's general funds. The remainder goes to the state. The one-half cent tax goes to retire the state's capital improvement bonds, voted by the people. The remainder goes into the state's general revenue fund.

* * *

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX

This is a tax on the privilege of operating a motor vehicle on the public highways. The tax is graduated, starting at \$5. Most passenger cars pay \$10 annually. The state, counties, cities, towns and townships share the revenue, which is used for road and bridge improvements.

* * *

MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS TAX

Dealers pay \$25 annually for the privilege of selling motor vehicles in Ohio. The state highway safety fund receives the revenue.

* * *

MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX

This tax, commonly referred to as the gas tax, amounts to seven cents per gallon. Counties, cities and towns and townships share this revenue with the state to be used for highway and street improvement purposes.

(The federal gas tax amounts to 4 cents per gallon, additionally.) Marine fuel also is taxed seven cents per gallon in Ohio, the waterways safety fund of the state receiving the revenue.

* * *

HOUSE TRAILER TAX

A tax is levied on house trailers for the privilege of using or occupying same in Ohio. Trailers also are subject to license registration fees. The cost or market value of the trailer is the basis of the tax. The local property tax applies. Local taxing subdivisions share the revenue.

* * *

RETAIL SALES TAX

This tax, inaugurated when the tax limitation on property was reduced from 15 to 10 mills in the early 1930's in Ohio, is based on each retail sale of tangible personal property. The tax starts at a 31-cent sale. For such sales between 31 to 40 cents, the tax is one cent. For sales between 40 and 70 cents, the tax is two cents. For sales between 71 cents and \$1.08, the tax is three cents. For sales between \$1.09 and \$1.40, the tax is four cents. For sales between \$1.41 to \$1.70, the tax is five cents. Three cents is added for each additional dollar.

The state, counties, cities and towns and schools share this tax on a state-determined formula. The schools share through the school foundation program, which is largely financed through the revenue from the sales tax.

* * *

LOCAL INCOME TAXES

The state permits cities to impose local income taxes with a one per cent ceiling imposed thereon. Such taxes can be used for any local purposes desired. Such a tax was first enacted in Toledo in 1946. Now approximately 90 cities in Ohio have such a tax. The Findlay council authorized a city income tax of 0.60 per cent in May 1965.

* * *

LIQUOR TAXES

There is a wide variety of these taxes in Ohio. The revenue is distributed variously, the state receiving the bulk of such levies. Counties, towns and townships also share to some extent.

* * *

OTHER TAXES

There are other taxes in Ohio, but none of the other bring revenue to local taxing districts, the state taking all the revenue from these other levies. They include the corporation franchise tax, foreign and domestic insurance company taxes, the workmen's compensation law tax, the unemployment compensation tax and the horse racing tax.

FEES AND LICENSES

State laws call for collection of license fees in some instances within each county. For instance, the county auditor each January sells tags for dogs to dog or kennel owners. The clerk of courts issues hunting and fishing licenses for stipulated fees. A deputy registrar of motor vehicles issues motor car license plates for fees. The city issues permits of various kinds for prescribed fees.

Additionally, each county office is authorized by the state to charge fees for certain services that are performed for those transacting business with the different offices. These fees all go into the county treasury.

TAX VALUATIONS BY DECADES IN HANCOCK COUNTY

The following table shows the total tax valuations by decades over the years in Hancock county:

1830 -----	\$ 26,013	1910 -----	\$41,516,934
1840 -----	608,439	1920 -----	106,516,620
1850 -----	2,404,745	1930 -----	106,012,780
1860 -----	6,549,717	1940 -----	62,070,883*
1870 -----	7,765,869	1950 -----	89,403,698
1880 -----	12,772,524	1960 -----	151,160,375
1890 -----	18,646,667	1964 -----	191,861,760
1900 -----	21,846,756		

*Early in the 1930's the state of Ohio revised its tax laws drastically, substituting a classified tax system for what was known as the uniform rule method. This resulted in a sharp decline in the Hancock county tax valuation of property. For fuller explanation, refer to chapter 16, entitled "The Course of Taxation in Hancock county."

* * *

LIBRARIANS OF FINDLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Nell Baker, 1890-1903

Miss Mary Morrison, 1903-1938

Miss Catherine Achord, 1938-

(Early records show that a small library existed above the old D. C. Connell book store in the 400 block on South Main street, and that Miss Ella Palmer was the librarian. When the library was formally organized by the city in 1890, Miss Baker became the first librarian under municipal authority.)

Spanning The Years

Below will be found a list of some of the important events through the years in the local community.



1812 — General William Hull arrived on his way to Detroit with his troops in the war of 1812 (June 19). Col. James Findlay, one of his regimental commanders, built Fort Findlay here.

1815 — Benjamin Cox became the first permanent settler in Hancock county.

1816 — Lydia Cox was born here. She was the first white child born in Hancock county.

1821 — Joseph Vance, William Neil and Elnathan Cory filed the first entries for land that later became Findlay. (July 3).

1821 — Wilson Vance, brother of Joseph Vance, came here from Urbana, O., to reside and lay out the town of Findlay. (November)

1822 — First church, known as Dukes meeting house, was built west of Findlay.

1823 — Wilson Vance was named postmaster. (Feb. 8)

1823 — First election of public officials took place. (July 1)

1824 — The first marriage ceremony was solemnized here, uniting Samuel Kepler and Rachel McKinnis.

1827 — The first school house was built at the northwest corner of East Crawford and East streets.

1828 — The Methodists formed a class which was the first religious organization in the town.

1828 — The state legislature approved a law to organize Hancock county. (Jan. 21)

1828 — The first court was conducted here. (March 14)

1828 — The first county election was conducted. (April 7)

1829 — The county's first physician, Dr. Bass Rawson, arrived from the east.

1830 — The first federal census was conducted showing 813 people within Hancock county.

1830 — The county's first town outside of Findlay was laid out and named Mt. Blanchard.

1830 — The county's first jail was constructed.

1831 — The First Presbyterian church was organized here.

1832 — The Methodists organized a mission church.

1832 — The county's first lawyer, Edson Goit, arrived.

1832-33 — The county's first court house was built.

1833 — The town of Van Buren was laid out.

1834 — Williamstown was laid out.

1835 — The village of Benton Ridge was laid out.

1836 — The county's first newspaper, the Findlay Courier, was published by Jacob Rosenberg. (Nov. 10)

1838 — The village of Findlay was incorporated. (March 17)

1838 — Findlay elected its first mayor — John Adams.

1842 — The Wyandot Indians ceded their lands along the Blanchard river and left for the west not long afterwards.

1843 — The first bridge was built across the river.

1844 — The village of Arlington was laid out.

1845 — Voters of Hancock county approved a \$60,000 bond issue to help build the first railroad into Findlay.

1846 — The Lutherans started a church here.

1847 — The villages of McComb and Vanlue were laid out.

1848 — The Odd Fellows lodge was formed.

1848 — The Church of God began here.

1849 — Pattersons department store had its origin here.

1849 — The first trains on the old Mad River railroad (later the Big Four) began to run between Findlay and Carey.

1849 — The village of West Independence was laid out.

1849 — A group of Hancock county men left to search for gold in California.

1851 — St. Michael's Catholic church was formed.

1852 — Hancock county's first fair was conducted on leased grounds north of the river.

1852 — The Masonic lodge was organized here.

1853 — The United Brethren church was formed in Findlay.

1853 — The Findlay union school district was organized.

1853 — Hancock county voters approved a \$100,000 bond issue to help build a railroad which later became the Lake Erie and Western, later the Nickel Plate and now the Norfolk and Western.

1853 — Houcktown was laid out.

1854 — Reformed and Lutheran faiths formed a church here, which in 1858 became two churches, the present St. Johns Lutheran and the United Church, formerly the Reformed. The latter's building on East Main Cross street, built in 1860, is the oldest religious structure in the city.

1855 — Arcadia and Rawson were laid out.

1857 — The Baptists organized here.

1861 — The Civil war's start brought enlistment of many volunteers from Hancock county to serve in the conflict.

1863 — The First National Bank was organized.

1865 — The present Central Drug store had its origin.

1866 — William Mungen, Findlay lawyer, was elected to Congress.

1870 — The Evangelical association was formed here.

1872 — The village of Mt. Cory was laid out.

1875 — The Knights of Pythias lodge was formed here.

1879 — The present Hancock county jail was built.

1879 — The Findlay Republican began as a weekly newspaper.

- 1880 — The town of Deweyville was laid out.
- 1880 — Findlay's first daily newspaper, the Jeffersonian, appeared.
- 1881 — Episcopalians organized a church here.
- 1882 — The village of Shawtown was laid out.
- 1883 — The town of Jenera was laid out.
- 1884 — The Church of Christ was organized here.
- 1884 — The Oesterlen gas well "came in," proving the existence of gas here. (Dec. 5)
- 1885 — The first oil well was brought in here, known as the Mathias well and located at the northwest corner of West Main Cross street and Durrell street. (Nov. 1)
- 1886 — The famous Karg gas well was completed, attracting the world's attention to Findlay, because of its great size and inaugurating the boom which greatly expanded Findlay's economy. (Jan. 20)
- 1886 — Findlay College opened its doors to students.
- 1887 — The Ohio Oil company was organized at Lima.
- 1887 — The Peerless Refining company began operations here, later becoming the National Refining company and now the Ashland Oil and Refining company.
- 1887 — A drain tile firm was established that subsequently became the present Hancock Brick and Tile company.
- 1888 — The new Hancock county court house was opened.
- 1888 — The Findlay Elks lodge was formed.
- 1888 — The Findlay Y.M.C.A. was organized.
- 1889 — The Chamberlain Cartridge and Target works were established here, later becoming Remington Arms.
- 1890 — The Findlay public library was organized.
- 1890 — The United Presbyterian church was formed here.
- 1890 — Findlay had many new factories, attracted here by the oil and gas boom.
- 1892 — A parade of Findlay school children marked the observance of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America.
- 1893 — Jacob F. Burket, Findlay lawyer, was elected to the Ohio Supreme court.
- 1894 — The Maccabees formed a lodge here.
- 1894 — The brewery which is now the property of International Breweries was established.
- 1895 — The Salvation Army was started here.
- 1897 — The City Banking company, now the Ohio Bank and Savings company, was organized.
- 1898 — Findlay's Ohio National Guard company left for the Spanish-American war.
- 1900 — Findlay was building its first high school structure on West Main Cross street.
- 1901 — The Ohio Oil company moved its corporate seal to Findlay

from Oil City, Pa., which was followed by a steady expansion of the company's offices here.

1901—The Buckeye Traction Ditcher company began operations here.

1901 — The new First Presbyterian church at South Main street and West Lincoln street, the new Methodist church on West Sandusky street and the Findlay Municipal building were all being built.

1903-05 — Findlay became the terminus for three electric street car lines, operating to Toledo, Fostoria, Bowling Green, Lima, Wapakoneta and Piqua.

1904 — Ralph D. Cole, Findlay lawyer, was elected to Congress.

1904 — The Chautauqua, bringing cultural entertainment of various types, began here.

1905 — The C. F. Jackson company, of Norwalk, established a department store in Findlay.

1906 — Riverside park was opened by the city.

1906 — The first Redpath Chautauqua was held in Findlay.

1907 — The "Pastime" was brought to Findlay from the Maumee river to join the Blanchard river fleet of boats for the Riverside park traffic.

1908 — The Findlay Automobile Club was organized.

1908 — Hancock county voted dry in an election which banished saloons locally.

1908 — President William Howard Taft spoke in Findlay.

1909 — Barney Oldfield, noted automobile racing driver, participated in a contest in Findlay.

1910 — Tell Taylor wrote "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

1911 — J. C. Donnell, of Findlay, was elected president of the Ohio Oil company.

1911 — The sugar beet plant began operations here.

1911 — The Findlay Jeffersonian, one of the city's three daily newspapers, suspended publication.

1912 — Hancock county observed its 100th anniversary with a week-long celebration, under the leadership of Mayor E. L. Groves.

1912 — President William Howard Taft spoke on Broadway in Findlay. He was the first president to ever visit Findlay during his incumbency in the White House.

1912 — Findlay's fire department obtained its first motorized equipment.

1912 — Findlay high school won the state basketball championship in a tournament at Delaware.

1913 — A disastrous flood visited Findlay, causing great damage. The water reached Lima street on the south side. A policeman lost his life.

1914 — The Associated Charities was organized here, with Dr. J. P. Baker as president.

1914 — Findlay's tax rate dropped to 6.20 mills, the lowest in the entire state.

1914 — The present Cooper Tire and Rubber company had its origin in Akron, then coming to Findlay in 1917.

1915 — The Lincoln and Washington elementary school buildings were being built.

1915 — The city of Findlay voted dry in a municipal election.

1915 — Hancock county voted to build a new county home or "infirmary" as known in earlier days.

1916 — Plans were developed for the hard surfacing of Hancock county's first highway, the Lima road.

1917 — Hancock county young men began leaving for world war I.

1917 — Sarah Bernhardt, (The Divine Sarah) the famous stage star, appeared at the Marvin theater for a performance.

1918 — R. Clinton Cole, Findlay lawyer, was elected to Congress.

1920 — Findlay's first two men's service clubs, Rotary and Kiwanis, were organized.

1920 — The Differential Steel Car company began operations here.

1920 — The Findlay Chamber of Commerce was formed, with a paid executive staff.

1922 — John Hancock's statue fell from the top of the Hancock county court house in a storm.

1923 — The Boy Scout council was formed here.

1923 — The J. C. Donnell and Glenwood junior high schools were built and the high school greatly enlarged.

1924 — The Ohio Oil company entered the refining and marketing field with the purchase of the Lincoln Oil Refining company at Robinson, Ill.

1925 — The new children's home on North Main street was built.

1925 — Findlay high school's football team won the mythical state championship.

1926 — The Findlay Daily Courier's control passed to the owners of the Findlay Morning Republican.

1926 — The Central Rubber and Steel company began operations. It is now Centrex Corp.

1927 — J. C. Donnell, president of the Ohio Oil company, died. His son O. D. Donnell was elected to succeed him.

1928 — O. D. Donnell and his three sons, James, John and Dewey, presented the Donnell memorial stadium to the city as a tribute to the memory of the late J. C. Donnell.

1929 — The Camp Fire Girls council was organized here.

1930 — The Marvin theater was destroyed by fire, on North Main street.

1930 — The three-way financial drive on behalf of the Y.M.C.A., Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls had its origin.

1931 — The city's new waterworks plant on North Blanchard street began operations.

1932 — Street cars discontinued service in Findlay.

1932 — Findlay's new postoffice on West Main Cross street was occupied.

1932 — Col. Ralph D. Cole, of Findlay, was elected state commander of the American Legion.

1933 — The Morning Republican and the Daily Courier were merged, as the Republican-Courier.

1934 — The new state highway patrol barracks on North Main street were opened.

1935 — The former postoffice became the Findlay public library.

1935 — Findlay's new Main street bridge was completed as a memorial to all from the city and county who served in the nation's wars.

1936 — The Van Buren state park area was opened to the public.

1937 — Findlay observed its golden celebration of oil and gas recalling the great observance of 1887 during the boom days.

1937 — The municipal swimming pool was opened here.

1939 — Work started on Findlay's new Y.M.C.A. on East Sandusky street.

1939 — The Findlay Civic Music association was formed.

1941 — Radio Station WFIN went on the air.

1941 — The declaration of war against Germany and Japan found the community ready to do its share in the conflict.

1943 — The Findlay Country club was destroyed by fire.

1945 — The Girl Scouts' council was formed here.

1945 — Jackson E. Betts, of Findlay, was elected speaker of the Ohio house of representatives of the General Assembly.

1945 — The city school district voted to build four new elementary school buildings, the Whittier, McKinley, Jefferson and Northview.

1948 — O. D. Donnell retired as president of the Ohio Oil company and his son J. C. Donnell, II, was named to succeed him.

1948 — Findlay high school's basketball team coached by Carl Bachman won the state championship at Columbus.

1950 — Jackson E. Betts was elected to Congress.

1950 — The Judson Palmer Home for aged women was built.

1950 — The Korean conflict saw Findlay and Hancock county men leaving for war service once more.

1951 — Hancock county decided to install automatic voting machines.

1952 — Miss Zola D. Jacobs was named Findlay school superintendent to succeed F. L. Kinley, who resigned because of ill health.

1954 — Hancock county voters authorized construction of a new county hospital here.

1954 — The Radio Corporation of America built a plant here.

1955 — The city school district voted a \$2,000,000 bond issue to expand the two junior high schools and for other school improvements.

1955 — The state agreed to build a by-pass around Findlay on the west.

1955 — Eastman Kodak company built a processing laboratory here.

1955 — City council approved a zoning ordinance for Findlay.

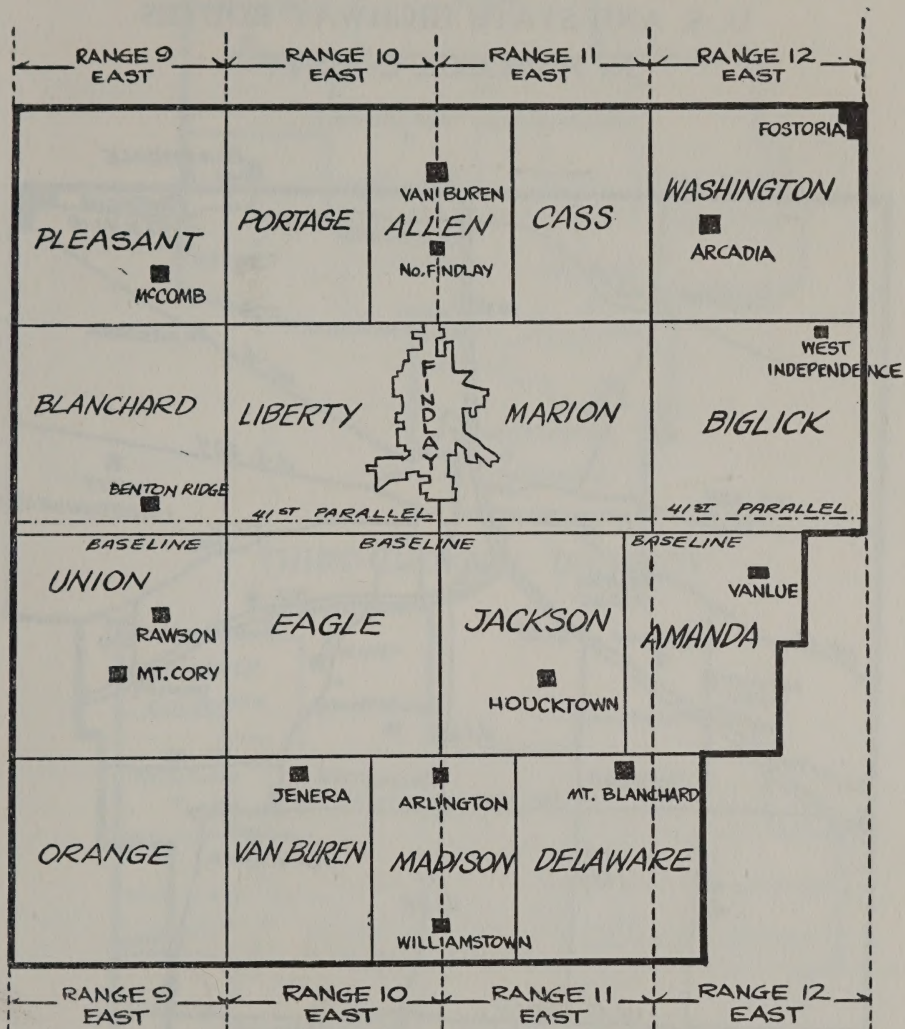
1956 — The United Community Fund had its origin here.

1959 — Findlay expanded its fire department.

1960 — A new senior high school was approved by voters of the city school district.

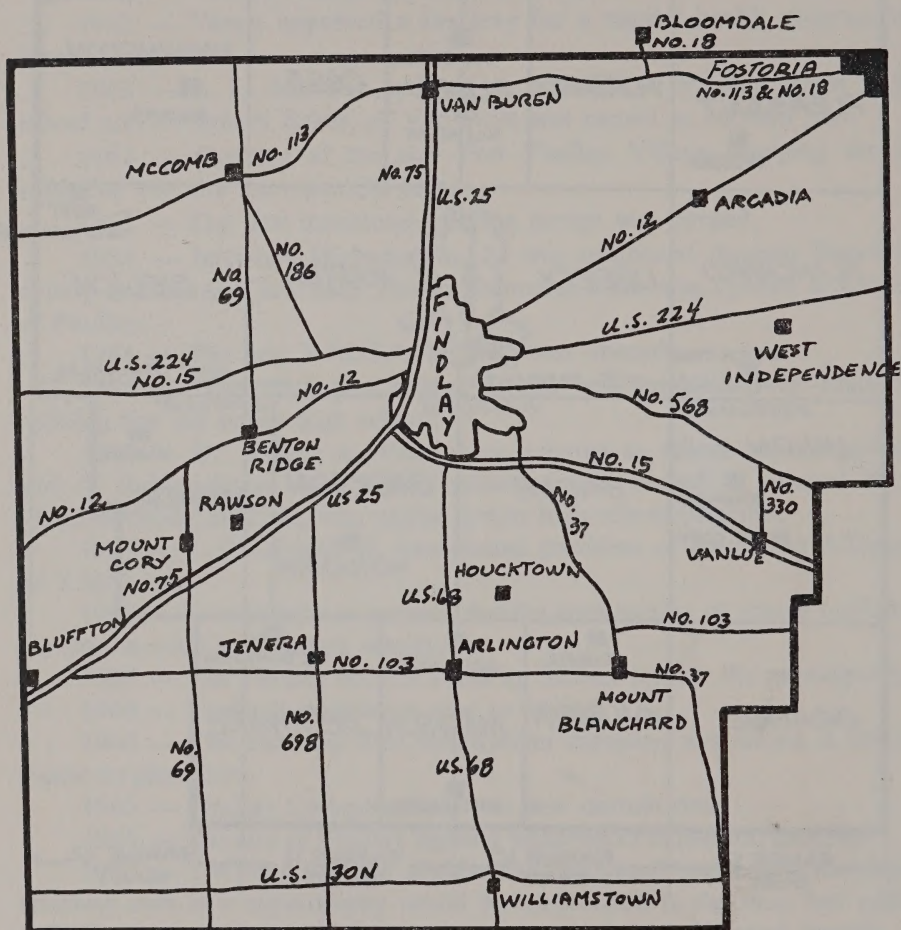
- 1960 — Findlay's population passed the 30,000 mark.
- 1960 — Junior Achievement was established here.
- 1960 — Wayne B. Brewer was elected president of the Cooper Tire and Rubber company, succeeding his father, W. B. Brewer, who died.
- 1961 — The Dow Chemical company began operations here.
- 1961 — County-wide voter registration was inaugurated.
- 1962 — Hancock county observed its sesqui-centennial.
- 1962 — The Ohio Oil company, marking its 75th anniversary, changed its name to Marathon Oil company.
- 1962 — Findlay College regained accreditation.
- 1962 — Voters approved a tax levy for a mental health program in Hancock county.
- 1963 — A. L. Mattoon resigned as principal of Findlay senior high school and C. Robert Baker, of Van Wert was named to succeed him.
- 1963 — Opening of the new Fort Findlay Village shopping center expanded the city's commercial area.
- 1963 — The new downtown parking garage was opened.
- 1964 — Interstate Highway No. 75 was completed through Hancock county and the new four-lane Toledo-Columbus route was opened southeast of Findlay.
- 1964 — The new Y.M.C.A. building was opened.
- 1964 — The third junior high school was established in Findlay, utilizing the old senior high school.
- 1965 — Dr. Robert A. VanAuken resigned as school superintendent and C. Robert Baker, high school principal, was named to succeed him. Howard Grove, of Lima, was named senior high school principal.
- 1965 — J. C. Donnell II, was elected president of the World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.'s.
- 1965 — A contract was awarded for the construction of school facilities for the retarded in Hancock county.
- 1965 — The Findlay council voted an income tax for the municipality.
- 1965 — Findlay's population rose to 34,061.
- 1965 — The Hercules Tire and Rubber company announced it would locate its plant here.
- 1965 — Findlay College started two new dormitories.
- 1965 — The city of Findlay began a waterworks expansion program.
- 1965 — The state highway department announced that a new four-lane roadway over new right-of-way would be constructed in the next few years to become a new Lincoln highway route through southern Hancock county.

TOWNSHIP AND RANGE MAP OF COUNTY



Map of Hancock County showing ranges, 41st Parallel and Base Line

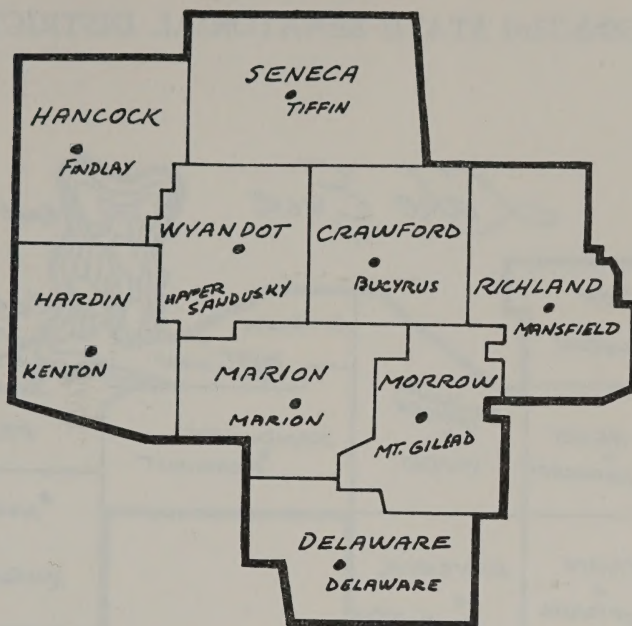
U. S. AND STATE HIGHWAY ROUTES IN HANCOCK COUNTY



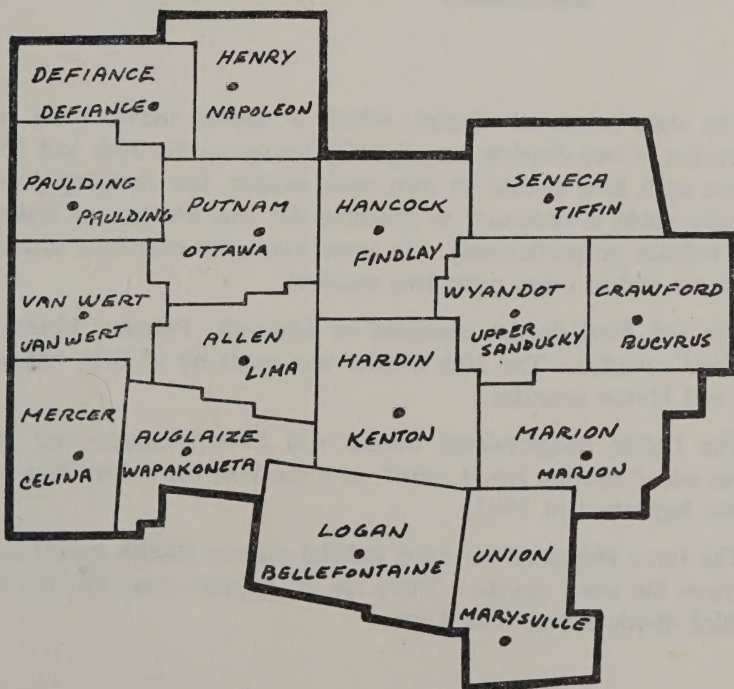
Double lines show four-lane routes.

EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

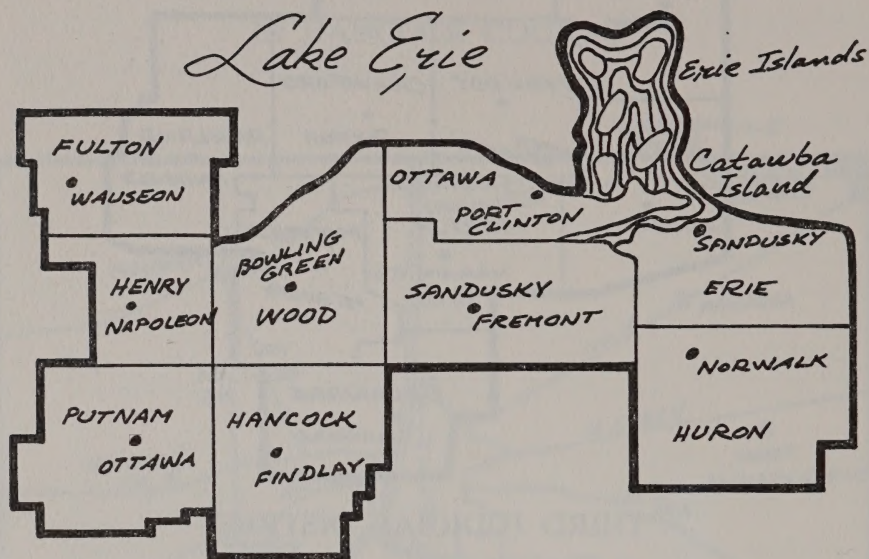
(Effective Jan. 1, 1967)



THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT



30th-33rd STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT



The state senatorial district, which is shown above, is in reality a combination of two districts, as originally set up — the 30th and 33rd. At one time each area elected its own state senator, but changing populations eventually made it necessary to combine the two districts to maintain the proper balance proportionately. In some years, the combined district elects one senator and in other years two senators.

The old 33rd district consisted of Hancock, Putnam, Henry, Fulton and Wood counties. The 30th district was made up of Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky and Huron counties.

The Eighth congressional district will have Richland and Delaware counties added starting Jan. 1, 1967, as a result of the redistricting action of the state legislature in 1965.

The three judges of the third judicial district handle appeal and error cases from the lower courts. There are 10 appeals court districts in Ohio. The third district's seat is at Lima.

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